

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **FEB 29 1980**

date entered **MAY 6 1980**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Federal Reserve Bank of New York

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 33 Liberty Street not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of _____ congressional district 17

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: banking

4. Owner of Property

name Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Ralph A. Cann, III, Vice President, Building Services Function

street & number 33 Liberty Street

city, town New York vicinity of _____ state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New York County Register's Office

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmarks Preservation Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no
LP-0054

date December, 1965 federal state county local

depository for survey records Landmarks Preservation Commission

city, town 305 Broadway, New York state New York 10007

Recall S

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in downtown Manhattan amid the tall glass and steel skyscrapers of the financial district, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York maintains the appearance of stability and sturdiness which its architects intended. The building occupies an entire city block and until the Chase Manhattan Bank with its open plaza was constructed recently, the entire bank was visible only at an oblique angle from the street, thus enhancing the sense of massiveness of the structure.

Fourteen stories high, with an additional five stories below grade, the building is faced with limestone and sandstone on a steel frame. The main entrance is distinguished by a large, arched enframingent at the center of the Liberty Street facade, while throughout the rest of the building, fenestration and ornamental patterns maintain a complete regularity. The lowest two floors, of deeply rusticated stone, provide a strong base for the rest of the heavy building. A series of arched windows with iron grilles wraps around the building at this lowest visible level. A balcony with straight stone balusters separates this base section from the central seven stories. The lowest floor of the mid-section has arched windows while those above are square headed. They are all paired and set at regular intervals into the deeply grooved stone. The upper stories are set back from the main part of the building and the highest of two of these are recessed behind a two-story arcade. The entire top section is capped by a slightly corbelled cornice.

The flat part of the roof was originally covered with quarry tile with copper flashing. This was repaired with new, similar materials in 1964-65. The sloping sections of the roof are also covered with Spanish quarry tile.

Flanking the main entrance on Liberty Street are two superb wrought-iron lamps. These, along with the window grilles and bronze window frames, were the work of the Philadelphia craftsman, Samuel Yellin. In 1967, these metal pieces were refurbished by the same firm.

The double-height glass and bronze entry arch on Liberty Street leads into a grand entrance hall. This room, with its vaulted ceiling and stone walls creates a dramatic impression on the visitor. There is also a gilded statue of Diana by Saint-Gaudens, cast from a model of the weather vane which graced the original Madison Square Garden.

To the east of the entry hall, along Liberty Street, is another vaulted room. A screen of ornamental iron tellers' cages creates a long corridor along one side of the room and separates the public and working spaces.

Large doors of ironwork lead off the main hall to the rest of the building and are carefully guarded. Due to security factors, most of the building is not accessible to the public and could not be seen for the purposes of this description.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1918–1924 Builder/Architect York & Sawyer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, constructed 1918–24, is one of the most impressive buildings in the city, displaying fine proportions and masonry, together with beautifully executed ironwork details. The prominent architectural firm of York & Sawyer used Italian Renaissance detailing in this fortress-like building to create a handsome and imposing edifice. The building covers an entire city block, making it one of the largest banks in the world. It houses the largest and richest district bank of the Federal Reserve system, with assets totalling over 37 billion dollars.

Edward York and Phillip Sawyer were early twentieth century architects who were known for their designs for public buildings. York had studied at Cornell and Sawyer had been a student at the École des Beaux-Arts and travelled extensively in Europe, especially in Italy. Both men worked for the firm of McKim, Mead & White before forming their partnership. Thus their orientation to classical European precedents was established. Other bank buildings in New York which they designed included the Guaranty Trust Company, the Greenwich Savings Bank and the Bowery Savings Bank. They were responsible for the designs of the U. S. Department of Commerce Building in Washington, D. C. as well as for buildings on numerous college campuses throughout the northeast.

York & Sawyer won the commission for the Federal Reserve Bank as a result of a competition. They based their design on Italian Renaissance prototypes in order to suggest consistency, stability and integrity for this bank. Despite its massive proportions, it is modeled after the fifteenth-century Italian Renaissance Palazzo Strozzi in the use of rusticated stone, the fortress-like first floor and the open loggia at the top. To correspond with the usual three-story arrangement of these palaces, the architects divided the building into three sections: a heavy base, a rhythmic central section and a finishing element, set back from the rest of the building. The finely carved limestone and sandstone of the facade and the beautiful iron lamps and window grilles contribute to the feeling of elegance of the Italian palace, despite the huge scale of the building.

The metalwork on this building was executed by the well-known craftsman Samuel Yellin. Yellin had come to this country from Poland early in the twentieth century and had established his firm in Philadelphia by 1908. He was known and respected throughout the country for the beauty and fine quality of his work.

After six years of construction, the building opened for use in 1924. Since that time it has provided an impressive and functional home for this important quasi-governmental agency.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property approximately 2 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Jersey City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 583620 4506720
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 66, Lot 1
See attached map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph
518-474-0479

name/title Virginia Kurshan, Research Consultant
For Joan R. Olshansky, National Register Coordinator

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date October 1979

street & number 305 Broadway telephone (212) 566-7577

city or town New York state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau date 2/22/80

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date May 6, 1980

Attest: Lynn A. Beebe

date April 21, 1980

Chief of Registration

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1980

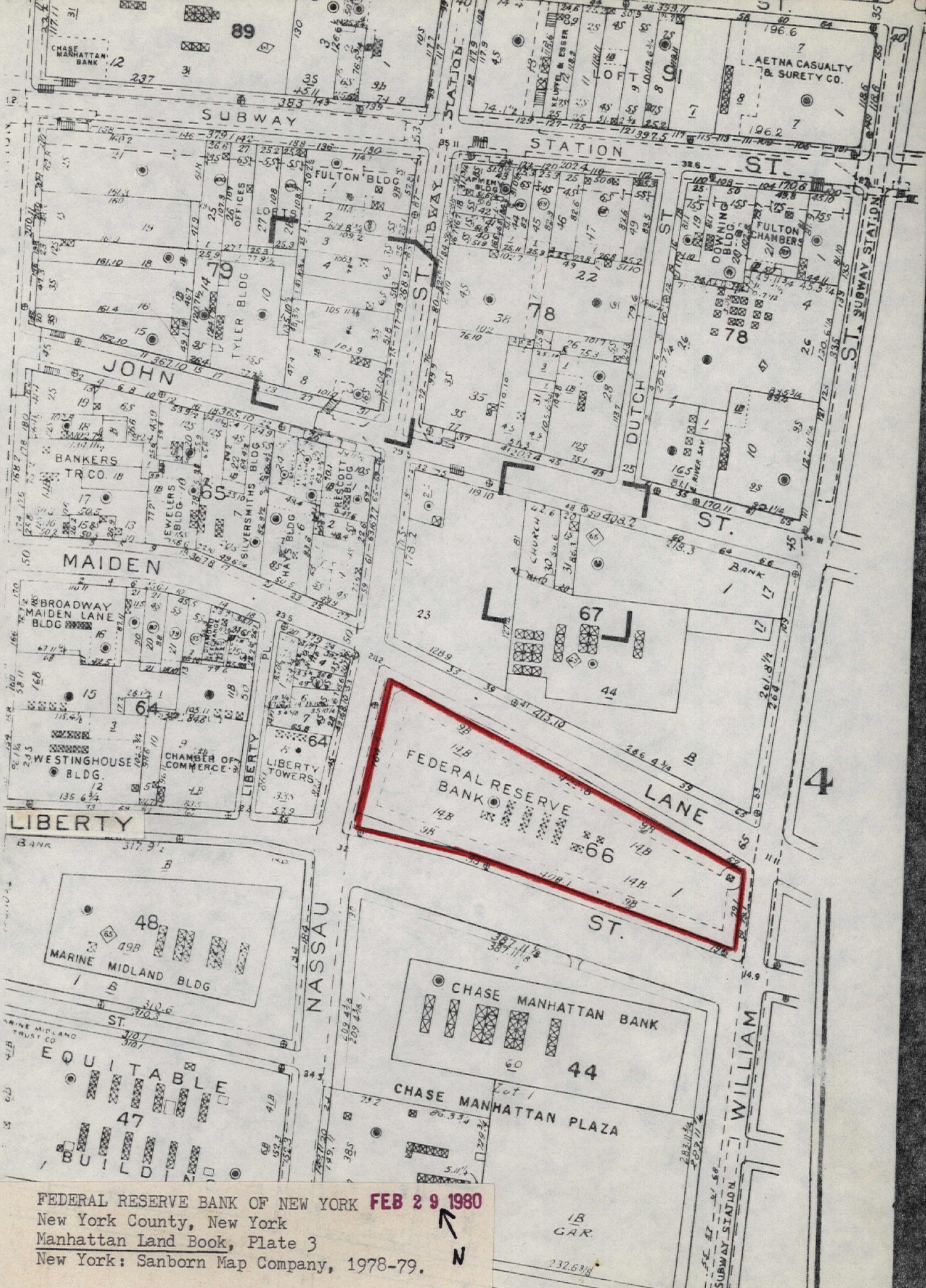
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
CONTINUATION SHEET New York County ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

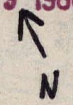
A more complete bibliography may be found in the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission research file: Federal Reserve Bank.

Goldstone, Harmon H. History Preserved, A Guide to New York City Landmarks and Historic Districts. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1974.

Penoyer, Peter M. The Architectural and Ornamental Ironwork Craftsmanship of New York City. Unpublished paper for the Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City, 1975.



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK FEB 29 1980
 New York County, New York
 Manhattan Land Book, Plate 3
 New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1978-79.



MAY 6 1980

Property Federal Reserve Bank of New York

80002688

State NY - New York

Working Number 2-29-80 742

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 3
Maps 2

HISTORIAN

An example of 1920s highrise architecture, the **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**
Fed'l. Reserve Bank of N.Y. illustrates the adaptation of
the Italian Renaissance idiom, traditionally expressed in the
~~the~~ comparatively small scale of palazzos, to the
highrise construction of the 1st quarter of the 20th c. The design & the
scale convey the association or image ~~image~~ conceived as
appropriate for ~~the~~ a major banking facility of the
Federal Reserve System. **ARCHEOLOGIST**

Accept
L. Beebe
4/21/80

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
L. Beebe
4/21/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 6 1980



MAY 6 1980

1. Federal Reserve Bank *of New York*
33 Liberty Street
New York, New York *County*
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from East

FEB 29 1980

$\frac{1}{3}$



2. Federal Reserve Bank *of New York*
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY *County*
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from west

2/9

FEB 29 1980

MAY 6 1980

MAY



0861 6

MAY

3. Federal Reserve Bank

of New York

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY *County*

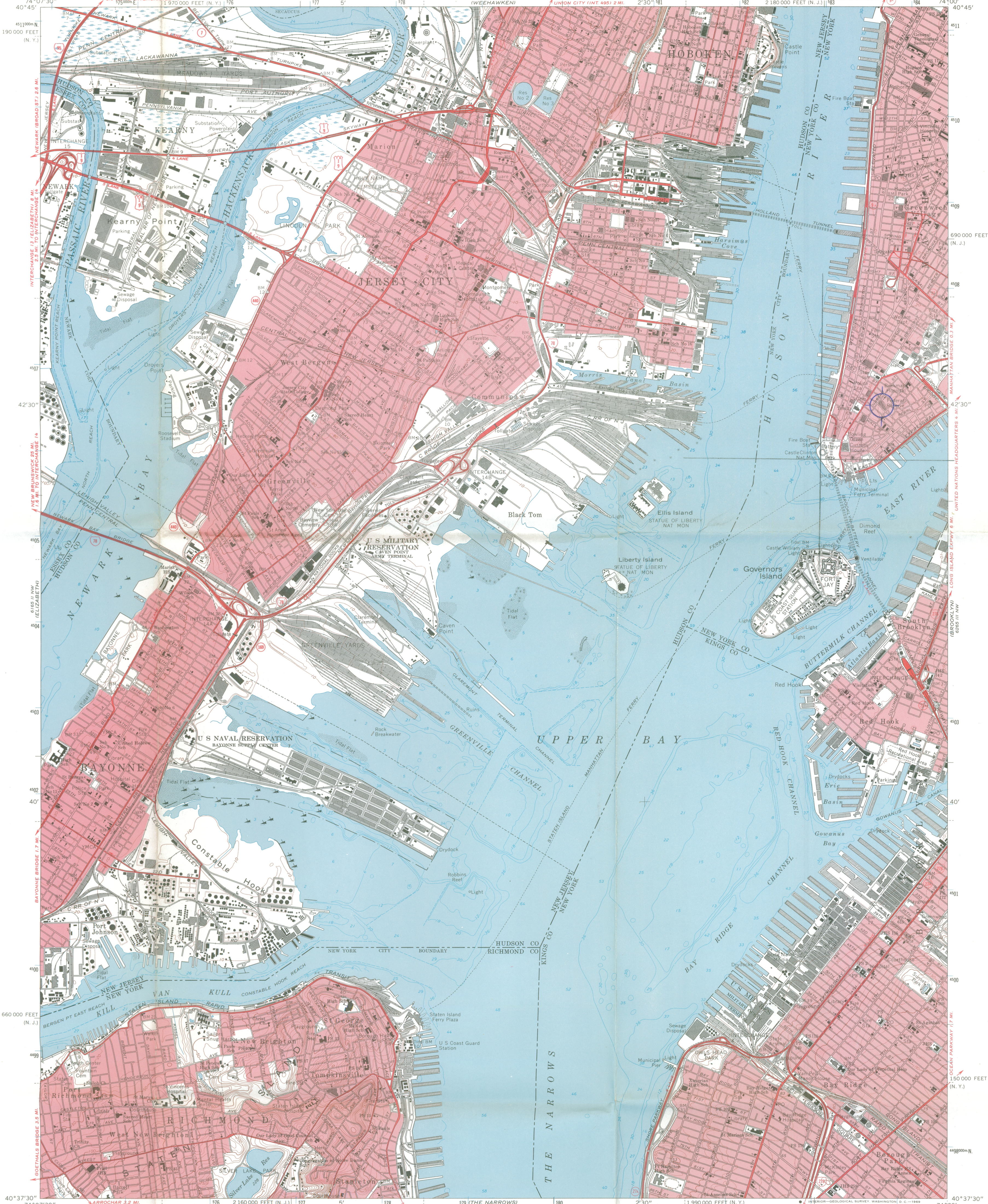
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

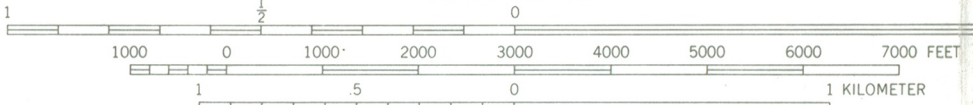
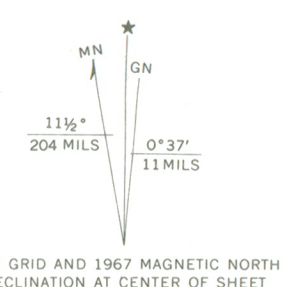
Interior

3/3

FEB 29 1980



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, New Jersey Geodetic Survey,
and City of New York Board of Estimate and Apportionment
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS
Charts T-5111, T-5277, T-5332, T-5450, T-5453, T-5454,
T-5460, T-5461, T-5466, T-5468, T-5469, and T-5470
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1954 and planetable surveys 1955
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 285, 287, 541,
and 745 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grids based on
New Jersey coordinate system, and New York coordinate system, Long Island zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 FEET IN
UPPER BAY AND 4.8 FEET IN NEWARK BAY

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 - Unimproved dirt - - - - -
 - Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

JERSEY CITY, N. J. - N. Y.
N4037.5-W7400/7.5

1967
AMS 6165 II NE-SERIES V822



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered MAY 6 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Federal Reserve Bank of New York	New York New York County
Seguine House	Staten Island Richmond County
St. Augustine's Chapel	New York New York County
Building at 45 East 66th Street	New York New York County
Scribner Building	New York New York County
American Fine Arts Society	New York New York County
Waldo, Gertrude Rhineland, Mansion	New York New York County
Church of Notre Dame and Rectory	New York New York County
New York Public Library, 115th Street Branch	New York New York County

Also Notified

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Honorable Jacob K. Javits
Honorable John M. Murphy
Honorable S. William Green
Honorable Charles B. Rangel

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

NR

Byers/bjr 5/13/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.