

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

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

For HCRS use only

received **SEP 29 1982**

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic The New York Yacht Club

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 37 West 44th Street not for publication

city, town New York City vicinity of congressional district 18

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name New York Yacht Club

street & number 37 West 44th Street

city, town New York City vicinity of state New York 10036

**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 City state New York 10007

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Landmarks Designation Report (LP-1019) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 11, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 20 Vesey Street

city, town New York City state New York 10007

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building houses a private men's club and is located in midtown Manhattan just west of Fifth Avenue on West 44th Street. This is a largely commercial area although there are also numerous private club buildings. The Yacht Club, flanked by commercial structures, is a mid-block building and occupies the entire site. The side elevations are non-exposed party walls and the rear elevation is not visible. The Yacht Club is seven stories in height (two are included within the mansard roof) and is constructed of brick with a finely grained stone facing. Stylistically, it is a neo-Baroque version of Beaux-Arts architecture.

The building is divided into four horizontal sections and also has a projecting entrance pavilion at the east which provides a vertical counterbalance to the overall horizontal layering of the elevation. A first story with grille-covered windows is designed as a podium for the grand, double height piano nobile which is composed of three bays. Each bay contains a monumental round-arched window from the bottom of which projects an elaborately enframed bay window. The bay windows imitate the sterns of Baroque sailing vessels and are fancifully carved with garlands of shells and seaweed, sculpted waves and dolphins. This unusual system of fenestration is enframed by two monumental Ionic engaged columns at the center and Doric piers at the outer corners. The entrance pavilion at this level contains a segmentally arched window from which projects an elaborately carved cartouche located above the doorway in a composition analagous to that of the adjacent round-arched and bay windows. A deeply recessed rectangular window surmounts the segmentally arched one, and both are enframed by smooth broad pilasters adorned with the club shield.

Above the piano nobile level, a modillioned entablature runs the full width of the building. Upon this entablature rest a series of recessed rectangular windows separated by piers which become freestanding above the balustrade which surmounts this third section of the facade. The piers originally supported a pergola which sheltered a roof garden. The mansard roof, set behind the plane of the facade, contains two stories of attic windows.

The principal rooms of the club are richly detailed and finely crafted. They include: the entrance hall containing a grand staircase, colored marble columns and Caen stone walls; the Model Room, a vast double-height room with carved balconies, a monumentally scaled fireplace, a stained-glass ceiling, and ship model collection; the Rotunda, now used to display trophies including the Americas Cup and originally used as a cafe; and the Grill Room, with massive oak beams and oak detailing to suggest the hold of a ship.



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Nautical History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1899–1900 **Builder/Architect** Whitney Warren of Warren & Wetmore

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1899–1900, the New York Yacht Club is a brilliant example of the neo-Baroque style and a paradigm of Beaux-Arts design principles. Designed by the noted architect Whitney Warren of Warren & Wetmore, it was this building which established the firm's reputation. The clubhouse is one of their finest works and of an architectural merit equal to that of the firm's most famous commission, New York's Grand Central Terminal. The New York Yacht Club is America's oldest and foremost yachting organization. Before moving to West 44th Street, the club had been located in much more modest accommodations. It was at the instigation of the millionaire banker J.P. Morgan, then Commodore of the club, that the new building was erected. The clubhouse has changed very little over the years and is today highly evocative of the Gilded Age in America which produced the magnificent private men's clubs of New York.<sup>1</sup>

Founded in 1844 by a group of nine New York yachtsmen aboard a schooner anchored off the Battery, the New York Yacht Club was incorporated "for the purpose of encouraging yacht building and naval architecture and the cultivation of naval science."<sup>2</sup> These aims soon came to realization with the construction of the famous sailing yacht, America. In 1850, the New York Yacht Club was invited to enter the competition for the Royal Yacht Squadron Cup, England's most celebrated sailing prize. Two of the founding members of the club, John C. Stevens and George L. Schuyler, took up the challenge. They commissioned George Steers, known to design the fastest pilot boats in New York, to design and supervise the construction of a yacht with which to enter the English race. Christened the America, it was this vessel which, on August 22, 1851, swept past fifteen international competitors to win the cup which came to bear its name. In 1867, the America's owners presented the cup to the New York Yacht Club, which remains today its custodian and the supervisor of the America's Cup races. The club continues to encourage innovations and improvements on naval design. The Yacht Club was first located in Hoboken and later on Staten Island. In 1871, the club's membership began demanding an increase in social activities and in addition to the Staten Island house, the Yacht Club rented rooms in a house at Madison Avenue and 27th Street. In 1884, all the club's activities were transferred to the Madison Avenue address. By the 1890's, men's social clubs had become an established tradition in New York City, and rapidly growing memberships forced many clubs out of the brownstones they once comfortably occupied and into specially designed clubhouses. In January of 1898, in keeping with this trend, a Yacht Club committee was formed to study the possibility of erecting a larger and more commodious clubhouse. Debate as to the site of the club and the purposes it should serve continued for several months when Commodore J. Pierpont Morgan prompted a decision by offering to purchase the West 44th Street site, at a cost of nearly \$150,000, if the club would assure him of building a clubhouse and raising the annual dues from \$25 to \$50. To secure a design for the new club, an architectural competition was held and seven architects entered. On December 15, 1898 the New York Times announced that the designs of Whitney Warren of Warren & Wetmore had been selected by the Yacht Club building committee.<sup>3</sup> Following a year of deliberation, they had selected Warren's evocative Baroque design over a more conventional one submitted by George A. Freeman. Warren

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Accepted Design for the New York Yacht Club," Architectural Review 6 (1899): 40-41.  
 "The New York Yacht Club," Architectural Record 10 (April 1901): 417-424.  
 New York Times: Jan. 30, 1898; 15:2. Oct. 28, 1898; 6:7. Dec. 15, 1898; 5:4  
 Dec. 9, 1900; 23:4  
 Barkinson, John. The History of the New York Yacht Club from its Founding through 1973.  
 New York: The New York Yacht Club, 1975.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre  
 Quadrangle name Central Park, N.Y.-N.J. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000  
 UMT References

A	1 8	5 8 5 9 7 0	4 5 1 1 8 7 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

## Verbal boundary description and justification

The building occupies Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 1260, Lot 16 which is approximately 75' x 100' in size, as outlined on attached map.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Goeschel Landmarks Preservation Specialist contact: Anne B. Covell  
Div. for Historic Preservation  
(518) 474-0479

organization New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission date 1981

street & number 20 Vesey Street telephone (212) 566-7577

city or town New York City state New York 10007

# 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 Ann Webster Smith

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date September 17, 1982

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 10/29/82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration



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

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet New York Yacht Club Item number 8  
New York County, New York Page 2

explained upon presentation of his plans:

This being a club for a special purpose namely the furtherance of naval architecture from an amateur standpoint, we consider that externally and internally the arrangements should be such as to place the subject in evidence, and not to retire it and make the clubhouse appear as that of merely a social club.<sup>4</sup>

This fanciful Beaux-Arts design, which incorporated images of marine life and naval architecture, is both imaginative and daring. At the same time the carefully planned elevation, the clear expression of the interior plan, and the fine scaling and disposition of the architectural detail, demonstrate Warren's sound understanding of the traditional theories and principles of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

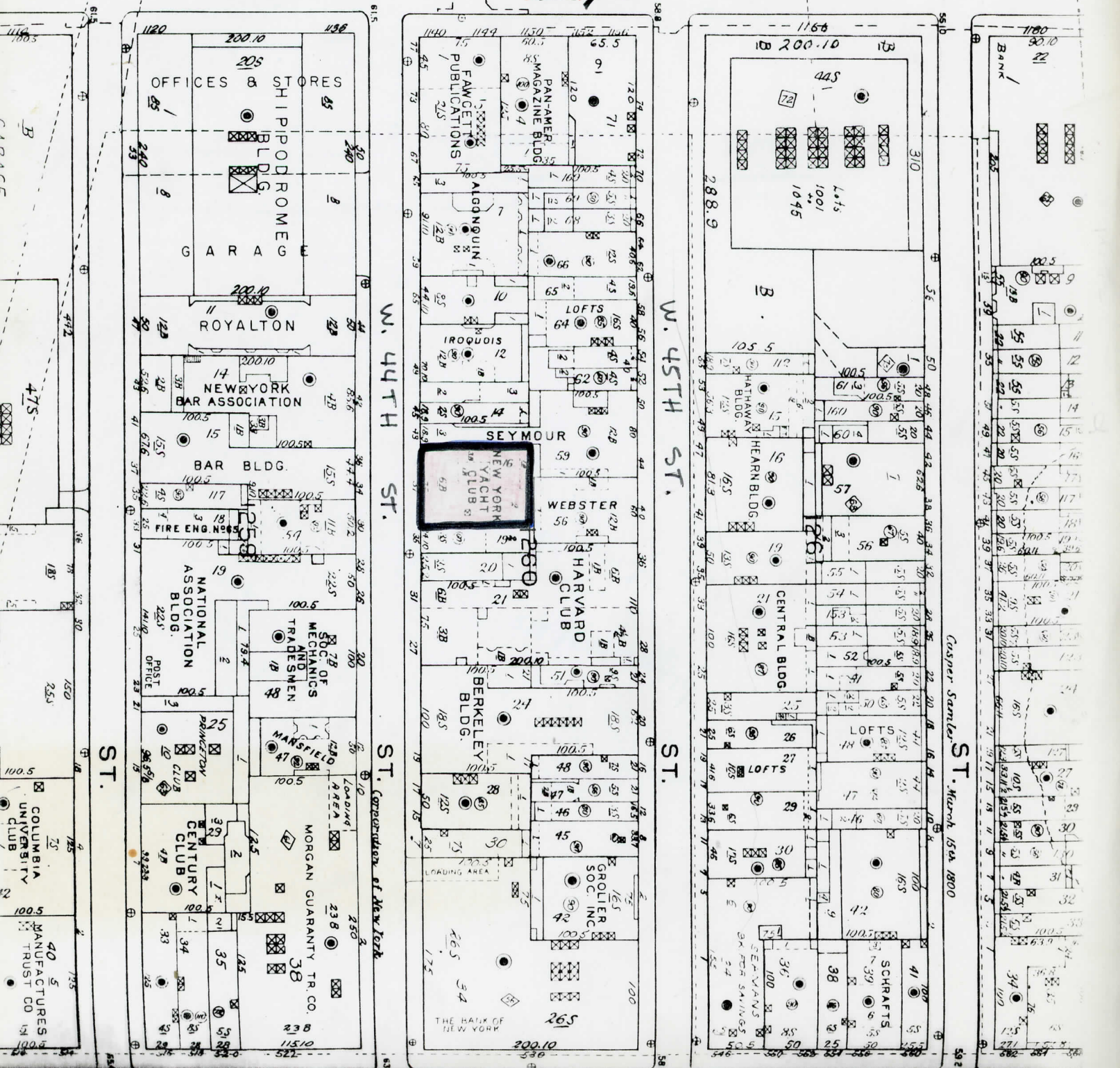
1. The text of this report is based on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Report, The New York Yacht Club Building (LP-1019), Sept. 11, 1979 by Ruth Selden-Sturgill.
2. New York Yacht Club Yearbook, 1944, p.48.
3. New York Times, Dec. 15, 1898, 5:4.
4. New York Times, Dec. 9, 1900, 23:4.



NEW YORK YACHT CLUB 37 W. 44th St.  
 New York County, New York  
 Manhattan Land Book, Plate 72  
 New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1981

*Nomination boundary  
 indicated by heavy line*

AVE. OF THE AMERICAS





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

New York Yacht Club  
New York County  
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/29/82-2651  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83  
Date Due: 10/29/82 - 11/13/80  
Action:  ACCEPT 10/29/82  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USGS references \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national    \_\_\_\_ state    \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet





photo 163

NEW YORK YACHT CLUB

37 West 44th Street

New York, New York County, New York

Photo and Neg: New York Landmarks Preser-  
vation Commission, 1979

View: from the southwest





NEW YORK YACHT CLUB

37 West 44th Street

New York, New York County, New York

Photo: New York Landmarks Preservation

Commission, 1979

Neg: LPC, 20 Vesey St, NY, NY

View: from the southwest

photo 2 of 3

MANUFACTURED BY KODAK THIS PAPER

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NEW YORK YACHT CLUB - 37 W. 44th St.  
New York County, New York

Photo: 1979  
Neg. at: New York Landmarks  
Preservation Commission

Window detail; view from the south

photo 3 of 3





New York Yacht Club 37° 44' 46.5"  
New York County, New York  
UTM Reference:  
18 585970 4511870  
Central Park, N.Y. - N.J. Quad.

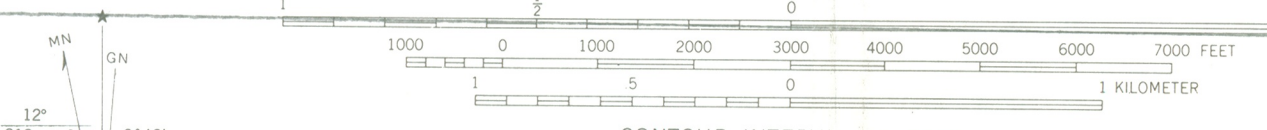
Mapped, edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York  
Department of Transportation

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS Charts T-4567,  
T-5089, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5453, T-5458,  
and T-5773. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1954 and planimetric surveys 1956  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 226, 274, 745,  
746, and 747 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

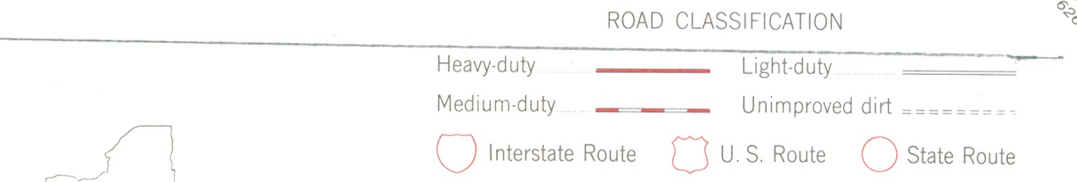
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, Long Island zone,  
and New Jersey coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET  
4 FEET IN THE HUDSON RIVER AND 5.7 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
CENTRAL PARK, N.Y. - N.J.  
SW/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4045-W7352.5/7.5

1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6265 IV SW-SERIES V821

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1977 and other source data. This information  
not field checked. Map edited 1979  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State Reservations shown on this map



NEW YORK YACHT CLUB

(Resource Name)

82001203

(Reference Number[s])

7/1 July 187

(Date form completed)

NEW YORK

(County)

NEW YORK

(State)

Mark Z. Baker

(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:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder ( ); Nomination ( ); Map(s) ( ); Photos ( )  
Available on: Microfiche ( ); Optical Disk ( )

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cause for removal)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Removed)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Designated)

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TR or MRA Name)

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Location of oversize file)

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Current source of partial documentation)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Target Date)

- COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Where found, or source of replacement)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Found/Replaced)