

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 3 1982

date entered
JUN 3 1982

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

1. Name

historic William B. Cronyn House

and/or common House at 271 Ninth Street

2. Location

street & number 271 Ninth Street _____ not for publication

city, town Brooklyn _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 15

state New York code 036 county Kings code 047

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name William & Phyllis Alexander

street & number 271 Ninth Street

city, town Brooklyn _____ vicinity of _____ state New York 11215

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kings County Register's Office
Brooklyn Municipal Building

street & number 210 Joralemon Street

city, town New York _____ state New York 11201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(LP-0997)

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

date July 11, 1978 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records 20 Vesey Street

city, town New York _____ state New York 10007

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date ND

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The house at 271 Ninth Street is located in a residential neighborhood of altered mid-nineteenth century rowhouses and small apartment buildings interspersed with commercial and business enterprises which may be seen on this Ninth Street block as well as on adjacent Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

The main feature of this three-story, freestanding house is the slate mansard roof with end pavilions and ornamental iron cresting and a central half-story cupola with a clerestory.¹ The roof and end pavilions are pierced by dormers, and an intricate, bracketed roof cornice, which extends around the house, sets off the roof from the lower stories. At the second story, the windows display bracketed lintels although the original sash has been replaced. Projecting three-sided bays flank the first-story entrance. The tall narrow windows of the bays are flanked by paneled pilasters, and each bay is surmounted by a modillioned cornice supporting an ornamental cresting and a low hipped roof. A portico with bracketed and modillioned cornice shelters the entrance doorway, which is approached by two steps. While of frame and brick construction, the walls are covered with smooth stucco. The side walls each have one bay of windows near the front corners, and the rear elevation is not visible. In front of the house and at the east side is a small yard enclosed by an iron fence set on a brick wall and by a hedge. At the west side of the house is a steep driveway leading to the rear yard.

1. The text of this report was taken almost in its entirety from the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Report, 271 Ninth Street House (William B. Cronyn House) (LP-0997), July 11, 1978, by Daniel P. Brunetto.

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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1856–57 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This French Second Empire house is a fine example of suburban residential architecture of the late 1850s, reflecting the prosperity of the original owner. The house was built between 1856 and 1857 for William B. Cronyn, a prosperous Wall Street merchant. A reminder of the development of this section of Brooklyn, this large freestanding residence is a striking architectural feature of the area.

The site of the house lies within the farm of Rem Adriance which extended from Third Avenue to the western limits of the Town of Flatbush, somewhere within the present day Prospect Park. Rem Adriance began subdividing his farmland for speculative development in the 1840s. During the 1850s Fifth Avenue was opened and the growing city of Brooklyn began to make inroads upon the area. The Civil War delayed development, but soon thereafter it was given impetus by the planning of "Mount Prospect Park" and of the Brooklyn Bridge.

William B. Cronyn, a prosperous Wall Street merchant, purchased four farm lots in 1854 and built his imposing house two years later. The property remained in the Cronyn family until his wife Elizabeth sold it in 1862. During the late 1860s other sites on this block along Fifth Avenue, Eighth Street, and then Ninth Street began to be developed. In 1879 the house at No. 271 became the residence of Daniel H. Gray who was in the sulphur refining business.

Charles M. Higgins acquired the property in 1898 as the headquarters for his India ink company which occupied the building until the mid-twentieth century. The ink factory was located to the rear of the house facing Eighth Street. This change in the building reflected the change in the area to include commercial uses as well as residential ones. Today the house is again being used for residential purposes.

The ornamental detail and the fine architectural quality of this large free-standing house make it an outstanding feature of the area. Dominated by its imposing mansard roof with cupola, the house is a particularly prominent and rare example of the French Second Empire style. Most other residential architecture of the mid-nineteenth century in this section of Brooklyn was of the rowhouse type. Such rowhouses were in the Italianate and much more modest versions of the Second Empire style. As a freestanding house with elaborate features, the Cronyn house contrasts sharply with its surviving rowhouse neighbors, symbolizing the prestige of the original owner.

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn, N.Y.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	8	5	5	6	0	4	5	0	2	3	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property, which occupies Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1004, Lot 60, is roughly 50 feet by 90 feet and is outlined on the attached map.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel P. Brunetto Contact Anne B. Covell
State Division for Historic Preservation (518)-474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date February 1981

street & number 20 Vesey St. 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 Oren Lehman

title Commissioner date 4/9/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 6/3/82

for Albous Byers
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 House at 271 Ninth Street Item number 9 Page 1
(William B. Cronyn House)
 Kings County, New York

Block Abstracts, Block 1004 (Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn).

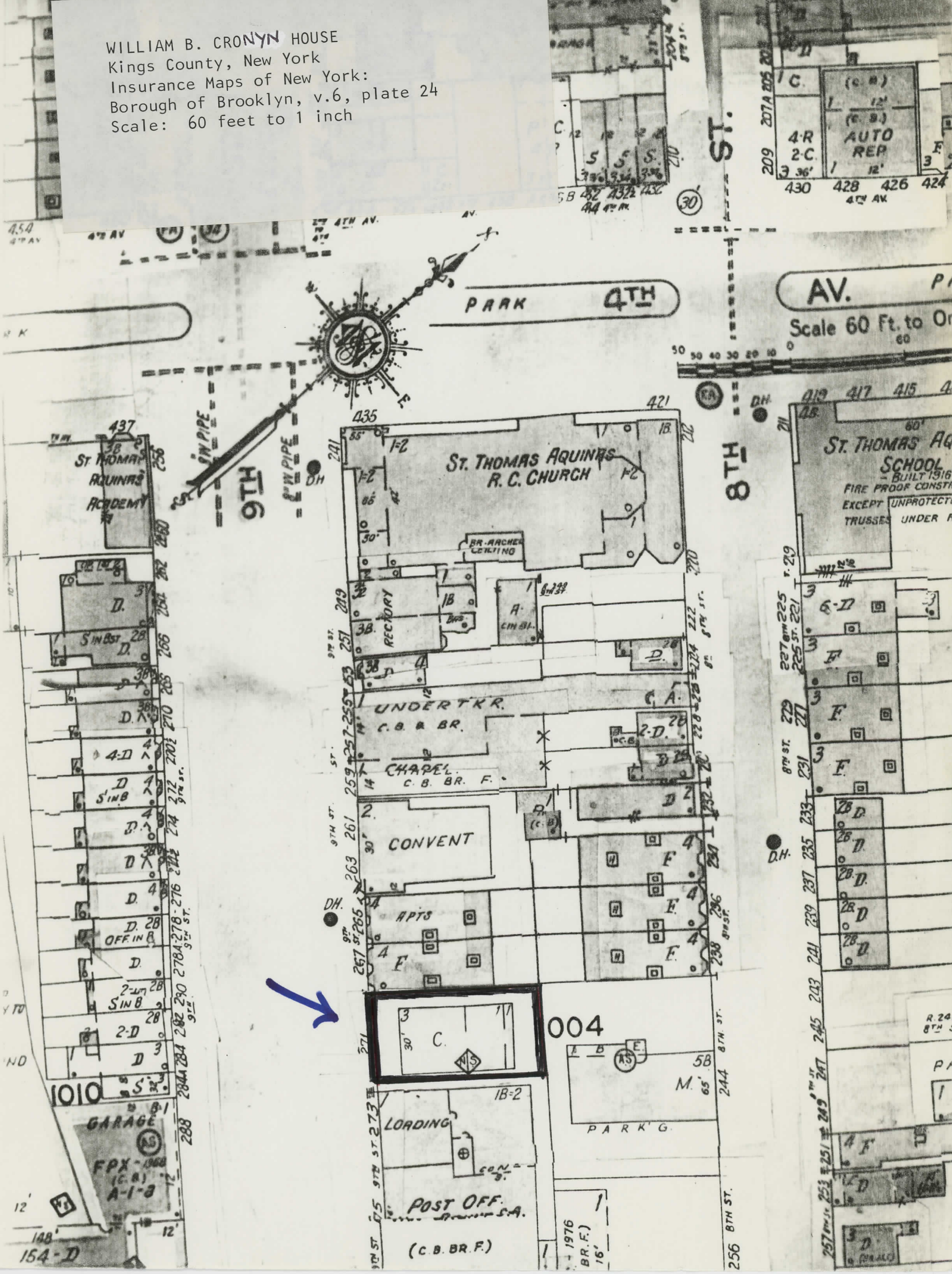
County Clerk's Office, Brooklyn. Map of Southern Division of Rem Adriance's Farm, Brooklyn, November 1848. Surveyed by Silas Ludlam, City Surveyor.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. 271 Ninth Street House (William B. Cronyn House) Designation Report. (LP-0997), by Daniel P. Brunetto. New York: City of New York, July 11, 1978.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Park Slope Historic District. New York: City of New York, July 17, 1973 (LP-0709).

Stiles, Henry R., ed. A History of Kings County Including the City of Brooklyn. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Munsell & Co., 1884.

WILLIAM B. CRONYN HOUSE
 Kings County, New York
 Insurance Maps of New York:
 Borough of Brooklyn, v.6, plate 24
 Scale: 60 feet to 1 inch



82005030

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Cronyn, William B. House
State, County: NY, Kings
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 5/3/82-13/2
Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983
Date Due: 6/3/82 - 6/17/82

Action: ACCEPT 6/3/82
RETURN
REJECT

Entered in the
National Register
photos ✓
maps _____

- 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
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date _____
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

for NPS use only

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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 _____

UNIT Reference _____

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: 202 272-35

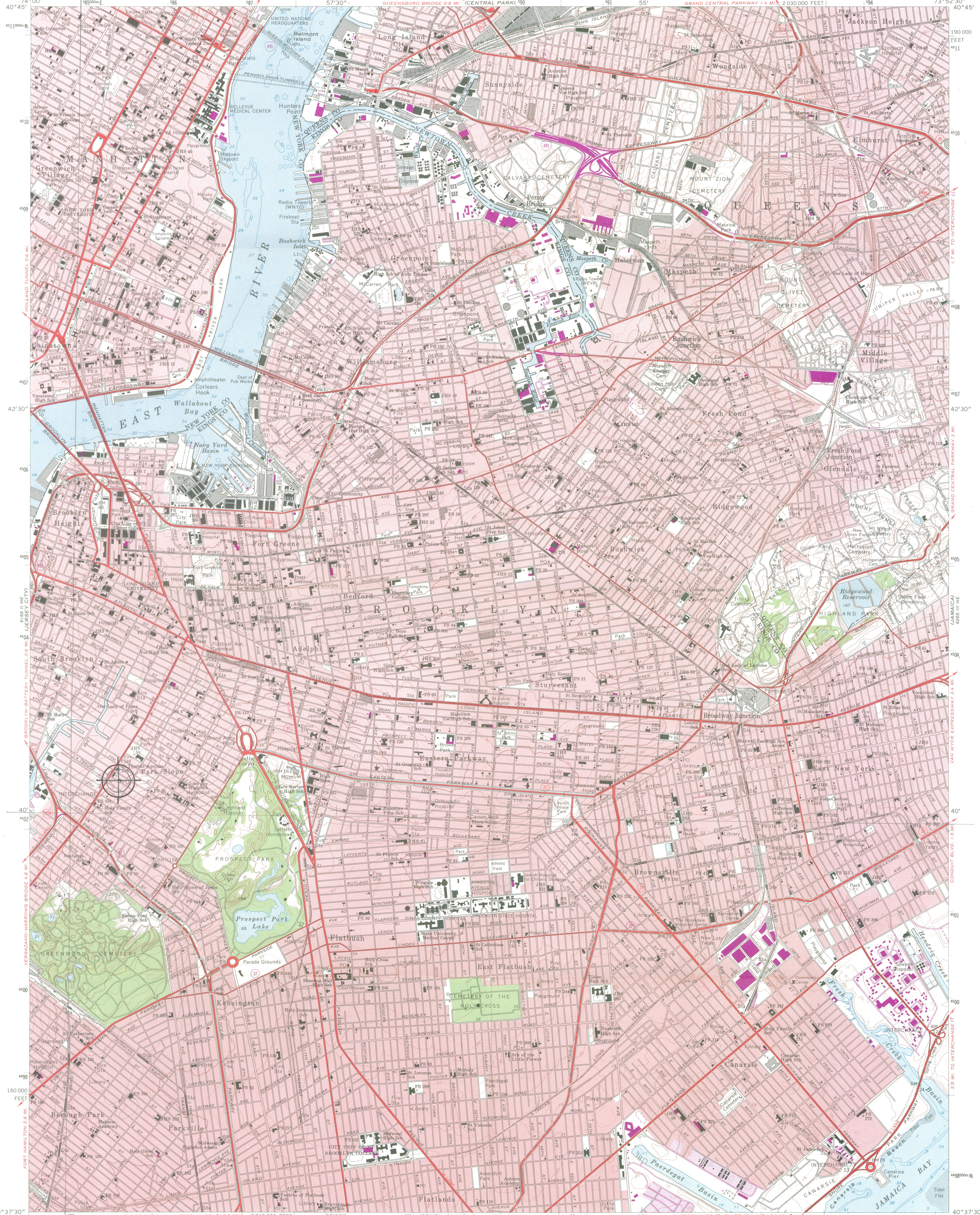
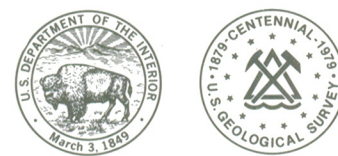
Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1. WILLIAM B. CRONYN HOUSE (271 Ninth St.)
Kings County, New York

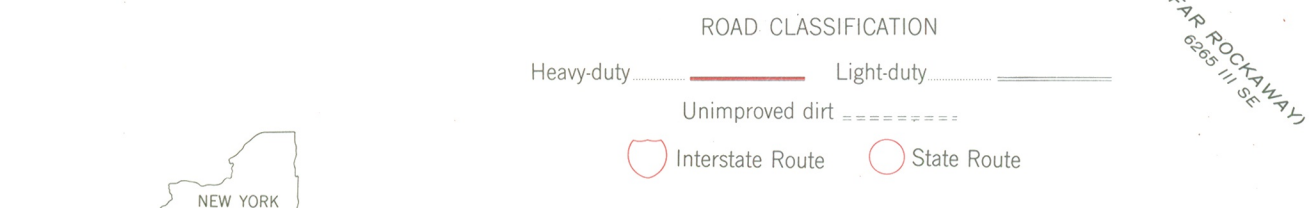
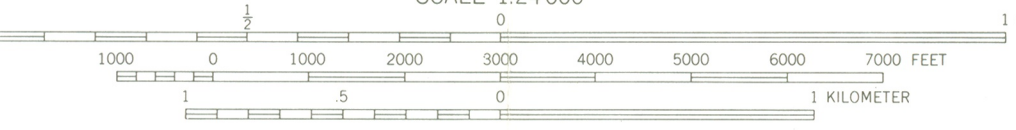
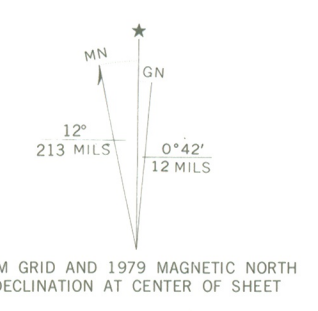
Photo by: Carl Forster, 1981
Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from south



William B. Cronyn House, 271
Ninth Street
Kings County, New York
City Reference: 18
18 585360 4502380
Brooklyn, N.Y. Quadrangle

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of New York Board of
Estimate and Apportionment
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1954, and from USC&GS Charts T-5094, T-5335, T-5454
T-5459, T-5460, and T-8449
Topography by planimetric surveys 1955-1956. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts
275 (1964), 542 (1967), and 745 (1966). This information is
not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on 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
Entire area lies within New York City



QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

BROOKLYN, N.Y.
N4037.5—W7352.5/7.5
1967
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6265 III NW—SERIES V821

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