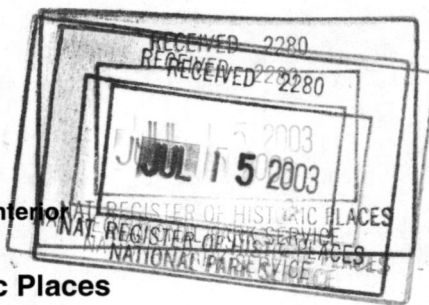


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.



OMB No. 10024-0018

849

1. Name of Property

historic name Harlem Savings Bank

other name/site number Apple Bank for Savings

2. Location

street & number 124 East 125th Street [] not for publication

city or town New York [] vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10035

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/24/03
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[X] entered in the National Register

[] see continuation sheet

[] determined eligible for the National Register

[] see continuation sheet

[] determined not eligible for the National Register

[] removed from the National Register

[] other (explain) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

8/28/03
Date of Action

Harlem Savings Bank

New York County, NY

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private

☐ public-local

☐ public-State

☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(check only one box)

☒ building (s)

☐ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

Buildings

Sites

Structures

Objects

1

0

TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources

previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/financial: bank

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/financial: bank

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation

Walls

Roof

Other

STONE: granite

STONE: granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Harlem Savings Bank
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7. Narrative Description

The former Harlem Savings Bank (now the Apple Bank for Savings) is located at 124 East 125th Street, on the south side of the street between Park and Lexington Avenues. Erected in 1906-07, the Classical Revival bank is a three-story, temple-front building clad in granite. The bank is located on one of the primary commercial thoroughfares in Harlem, and it is surrounded by a mix of historic and modern commercial and institutional buildings, as well as some residential buildings. There are several structures nearby that were in existence around the time that the Harlem Savings Bank was constructed. These include Engine Company No. 36, New York City Fire Department (formerly Hook and Ladder Company No. 14) built in 1888, designed in the Romanesque Revival style by Napoleon LeBrun and Sons, and located at 120 East 125th Street; a two-story brick commercial building with an Italianate cornice immediately adjacent to the east of the bank at 132 East 125th Street, which in 1911 was McClatchey's Bank Hotel; the heavily altered, Classical Revival, former branch office of the Provident Loan Society at the northwest corner of Lexington Avenue and East 124th Street; and the 125th Street elevated station of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro-North Railroad, built in 1897. Recently completed structures include a Pathmark supermarket at the southeast corner of East 125th Street and Lexington Avenue; a glass- and metal-clad New York State Department of Motor Vehicles building on the north side of East 125th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues; and a glass- and metal-clad furniture store directly north of the bank at the northwest corner of East 125th Street and Lexington Avenue.

Clad in granite from Hallowell, Maine, the bank is divided into three bays. The central bay is a distyle portico set *in antis*. The Ionic columns are raised above the street on plinths. Approached by a low set of stairs, the entrance doorway has a simply molded but heavy architrave and is framed by pilasters that support an entablature. Within the architrave frieze is a label with guttae and the date of the bank's founding in applied Roman numerals. Above the entrance is a rectangular window with a heavy sill and a decorative iron grill. A large metal clock projects from the façade between the window and the entrance cornice.

The portico antae are rusticated. On the east anta is a stone plaque with the date "1863" (the date of the bank's establishment) and on the west anta is a plaque with the date "1907" (the date of this building's construction). The portico entablature consists of an architrave of two fascia, a frieze, a dentil molding, and a projecting cornice with large,

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Harlem Savings Bank
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almost flat dentils. Framed by two roundels, an applied sign reading "Apple Bank for Savings" is set within the frieze. A pediment surmounts the portico.

The design of the recessed side bays echoes that of the portico. Quoins mimic the rustication of the antae, and the portico entablature continues across the bays. In the frieze on each bay, two roundels frame a blank panel. Each bay is set on a high plinth, and each contains a large, pedimented window. The window frames are bronze, and the west window is one-over-one, while the east window consists of one pane. A door is cut into the plinth below the east window. A parapet caps the façade. Except for coping stones, the central portion of the parapet is unornamented. Above the side bays, the parapet has some simple molding and corner piers with slightly projecting panels.

The façade has been only slightly altered since its construction. The most significant alteration to the portico is the shortening of the entrance stairs. Currently set between the columns, they originally extended the full length of the portico, with the columns resting on a low plinth on the top step. Pedestals with ornamental lampposts have been removed from in front of the antae. The projecting clock above the entrance is new, but as early as 1911 there was a clock in the same location, although it sat on the cornice, as if on a mantel, rather than projecting from the façade. The applied sign on the frieze covers a panel that originally read "Harlem Savings Bank." Additional minor alterations to the portico include a flagpole on either side of the window, and floodlights and metal notice boxes on the doorway pilasters. Although the notice boxes are not original, they (or earlier versions) were in place by 1911. Changes to the side bays include new windows, the east bay door, and the removal of basement wells with decorative iron railings.

An enclosed vestibule leads into the banking hall. The vestibule interior contains no significant features, but its three-sided banking hall exterior has Famosa marble (a mottled gray and red marble) pilasters and panels, and a plaster entablature and labels that are similar to the one on the bank's façade. Reached up a short flight of stairs, the banking hall is a large rectangular room divided lengthwise by the teller enclosure. A mezzanine floor extends over the southern half of the room. A frieze with a plaster floral motif runs along the face of the mezzanine floor; a brass rail sits on the floor's edge. Decorative elements in the banking hall include Famosa marble wainscoting; plaster pilasters that alternate with plaster panels, and a rectangular skylight (which is not open to the sky) with a rounded ceiling that appears to be covered in either aluminum-colored paint or leaf. A low rail at the eastern end of the banking hall separates the teller area and the area where the desks of the manager and loan officers are located. The lower half of the teller enclosure is also Famosa marble; the upper half is plexiglass. Decorative bronze doorways set in marble partitions are located on either side of the teller enclosure. Set in the rear (southern) portion of the banking hall, the vault is also Famosa marble.

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Section 7 Page 3

Harlem Savings Bank

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Offices are located in the rear of the building on the first floor, as well as on the second floor. On the first floor, the offices are undistinguished except for some wood wainscoting and cabinets. In the southwest corner of the teller enclosure, an open stair with a decorative metal banister leads to the mezzanine level, as well as to the basement. The pilasters and panels of the banking hall continue along the three walls of the mezzanine. On the second floor in the southwest corner of the bank is a room with what appears to be mahogany wainscoting, pilasters, molding, and fireplace, and a wood floor with inset geometric patterns. (This room may have originally been the board of director's room, which was originally located on the second floor.)

The interior of the bank has undergone several alterations. A drop ceiling with acoustic panels has been added, obscuring the original ceiling that consisted of a central barrel vault skylight with a Classical entablature of triglyphs and metopes, and two side aisles—running perpendicular to East 125th Street—with five domed skylights each (see attached historic photos). The entrance vestibule has been raised to the level of the ceiling, obscuring the central portico window. Originally, the teller enclosure was U-shaped and did not extend to the side walls. The existing doorways on either side have been added, but the original curves of the enclosure, where it turned to connect with the south wall, are visible. The plexiglass partition on the teller enclosure replaced marble counter screens and decorative light standards. The mezzanine level and stair are also not original, although it appears that the mezzanine frieze is an original decoration that was formerly located on the south wall of the banking hall. Although the interior has been altered, much of the marble decoration remains, and it may be possible that the original ceiling exists above the modern one.

Harlem Savings Bank

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture; Commerce

Period of Significance

1907-1953

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bannister & Schell, architects

Wakeman & Miller, general contractors

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☒ University
- ☒ Other repository: New York Public Library

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The former Harlem Savings Bank building is significant under National Register Criteria A and C as an architecturally distinguished example of a Classical Revival bank that reflects the history of one of Harlem's founding financial institutions, as well as East 125th Street's emergence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as Harlem's principal commercial thoroughfare. Designed by the architectural firm of Bannister & Schell, the bank building was constructed in 1907. A revival of interest in Classical design was introduced in the country following the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. During the early 20th century this style was commonly used for financial institutions in order to convey a sense of security and stability. The design of the former Harlem Savings Bank building is an example of the Classical Revival style used for a local community bank. The building retains a high degree of integrity on the exterior, and a lesser degree on the interior.

Historical Background and Significance

The former Harlem Savings Bank building is located in the neighborhood of East Harlem, which is roughly bounded by the Harlem River to the north, the East River to the east, East 96th Street to the south, and Park Avenue to the west. East Harlem originated around the Dutch village of New Harlem (Nieuw Haarlem), which was established by Peter Stuyvesant in 1658 from East 118th Street to East 125th Street, and from Third Avenue to the Harlem River. Early in the 19th century, James Roosevelt cultivated a large estate in the area along the East River. The area remained rural farmland until the late 19th century, though the development of the New York and Harlem Railroad along Fourth Avenue in the 1830s brought the area within commuting distance of New York City. A horse-drawn railroad along Third Avenue was chartered in 1853, and by 1858 a horse-drawn trolley ran up Second Avenue as far as 122nd Street.

In the 1860s, a small residential community formed north of 110th Street and east of Third Avenue. As late as 1870, much of the area was farmland; however, the extension of elevated railways to 129th Street along Third Avenue in 1878 and along Second Avenue to the Harlem River in 1880 spurred the development of tenements and apartment houses, especially in the vicinity of the elevated lines. New York City annexed Harlem in 1873.

Between 1870 and 1910 East Harlem developed as a working-class residential neighborhood. In those forty years approximately 65,000 apartments were built in the area. The neighborhood attracted waves of immigrant populations, first German and Irish, then Italian, Jewish, and Eastern European. Commercial concerns and religious,

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educational, and cultural institutions were established to serve the expanding population. At the same time, the blocks along the East River between East 92nd and East 125th Streets developed primarily as an industrial waterfront, with factories, auto-repair shops, junkyards, coal pockets, and gas tanks. Examples of these industries were the Washburn Wire factory, the Standard Gas-Light Company, and the Standard Oil Company.

The opening of the 125th Street Station of the New York and Harlem Railroad in 1837 guaranteed that street a key role in Harlem's development. However, it was not until the extension of the elevated railways and the rapid development of the neighborhood in the last decades of the 19th century that 125th Street began to be developed as the neighborhood's commercial thoroughfare, lined with small shops, large department stores, theaters, banks, and hotels.

The former Harlem Savings Bank building at 124 East 125th Street is an example of one of the many businesses that were located on East 125th Street during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The bank was chartered on April 17, 1863 by a group of businessmen who were interested in assisting their local community. It was an example of the many savings banks that were established in New York City in the decades prior to the Civil War to serve the small investment needs of the city's working people. The first Harlem Savings Bank opened on June 8, 1863 and was located on Third Avenue between East 125th and East 126th Streets.

Around 1906, the Harlem Savings Bank commissioned the firm of Bannister & Schell to design a new bank building on East 125th Street. William P. Bannister (1869-1939) and Richard Montgomery Schell (d. 1924) founded the firm around 1899. Practicing until at least 1928, the firm designed a wide range of buildings that included tenements, private homes, and apartment buildings; loft and office buildings; and churches. One of the firm's buildings still extant is the Gothic Revival-style Holyrood Episcopal Church and parish house, built in 1912-1914, at 715 West 179th Street in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. William P. Bannister, who had begun practicing architecture at least by 1886, was Secretary of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects when he died in 1939. Three years earlier, he served on Mayor Fiorello La Guardia's jury of prominent architects that was in charge of selecting architects eligible for receiving City commissions.

The bank's move to East 125th Street, at the time that the street was becoming the main commercial thoroughfare in Harlem, as well as the new building's striking Classical Revival design, strengthened the bank's image in the community as a leading financial institution. As explained in *New York 1900*, savings banks dealt directly with the general public, and as a result, they were often designed to convey a reassuring image of stability

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during periods of volatile economic conditions (p. 177). Most banks of this period relied on Classical designs to portray such images of solidity and security. One of the first banks to be designed in a Classical Revival style was McKim, Mead & White's Bowery Savings Bank (1894) at 130 Bowery. This Roman classical bank building set a new national standard of monumentality in bank design that many architects emulated by employing Classical motifs at a reduced scale. The former Harlem Savings Bank building, with its pedimented entrance and double-height Ionic columns, is such an example of Classicism at a reduced scale.

At the time of the former Harlem Savings Bank building's construction, there were at least four other banks in East Harlem. Most were located along 125th Street, signifying the importance of this thoroughfare to upper Manhattan. The other banks in this area included:

- Twelfth Ward Bank, which was built at the northeast corner of 125th Street and Lexington Avenue in 1893 and designed by George S. Drew. The bank left this location sometime after 1912. In 1909, the bank also had branches in East Harlem on 116th Street and at Third Avenue and 106th Street;
- Mount Morris Bank and Safety Deposit Vaults, founded in 1881 and located at the northwest corner of 125th Street and Park Avenue (National Register-listed 12-07-89; also a New York City Landmark), this severely deteriorated building was originally The Morris, an apartment building with a ground-floor bank, and was constructed in 1883-84 and enlarged in 1889-90 by the firm of Lamb & Rich. Mount Morris Bank was acquired by the Corn Exchange Bank in 1913. This is potentially the first bank to have organized in Harlem;
- The Hamilton Bank Building (originally the Bank of Harlem) located at 213-217 West 125th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, designed by J.B. McElfatrick and Sons and built in 1890; and
- The Provident Loan Society, which was built at the northwest corner of 124th Street and Lexington Avenue in 1911 and designed by the firm Renwick, Aspinwall & Tucker. In 1912, the bank had seven branches in Manhattan and the Bronx, not including its executive offices at 346 Fourth Avenue.

According to *New York 1900*, commercial banks began to establish branch offices in the uptown area after 1900 (p. 183). Small neighborhood banks were also numerous. As building types, these banks typically had small, mid-block sites but were designed to be taken seriously as pillars of the community. Before 1920, bank buildings in Harlem

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typically included apartment floors above the first level (*Harlem Lost and Found*, p. 172); the Mount Morris Bank is one such building. The former Harlem Savings Bank building is therefore unusual as it was built solely for the function of banking. However, it fits the pattern of commercial development on 125th Street at the turn of the 20th century.

The Harlem Savings Bank initially provided financial services to the residents and businesses of uptown Manhattan solely from its East 125th Street location. However, in 1932 it acquired the two branches of the Commonwealth Savings Bank (located at Broadway and West 157th Street and Broadway and West 180th Street) and increased its service area further north.

Over the following decades, the Harlem Savings Bank increased its presence in Manhattan by opening several new branch offices. By 1941 the bank opened a new branch office at the southwest corner of Broadway and West 181st Street. This new office replaced its branch at Broadway and West 180th Street (*New York Times*, 15 December 1940.) A 1940 article in the *New York Times* reported the opening of a fourth uptown Manhattan branch of the Harlem Savings Bank at the northeast corner of West 207th Street and Broadway. This new bank was located in the Inwood section of Manhattan, a neighborhood considered desirable for a new bank due to increased residential growth in the area (*New York Times*, 25 August 1940). Thus, construction of this new branch office demonstrated the success of the Harlem Savings Bank in the local community, as well as its ability to expand to new markets.

Around 1952 the bank extended its reach south to midtown, when it opened a branch office at East 42nd Street at Second Avenue (*New York Times*, 7 June 1952). A 1957 advertisement in the *New York Times* listed offices for the Harlem Savings Bank at 42nd Street at Second Avenue, 125th Street at Lexington Avenue, 157th Street at Broadway, 181st Street at Broadway and Broadway at 207th Street (*New York Times*, 8 July 1957).

The Harlem Savings Bank continued to expand during the late 20th century, primarily through acquisitions of established banks. In 1981 it acquired the Central Savings Bank, founded in 1859 as the German Savings Bank. This acquisition doubled the size of the bank from eight branches to sixteen. Since the name of the Harlem Savings Bank no longer accurately portrayed the bank's geographic reach, its name was changed in 1983 to "Apple Bank for Savings." In 1986 Apple Bank merged with Eastern Savings Bank and as a result added seven more branches in the Bronx and Westchester. Eastern Savings Bank was originally founded in the early 1900s as the Bronx Savings Bank. Apple Bank expanded again in 1989 when it acquired the Sag Harbor Savings Bank, which was founded in 1860. This merger strengthened Apple Bank's position in Suffolk County, as

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Harlem Savings Bank

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it gained five branches that served western Long Island.

Apple Bank has continued to expand and now has 46 branch locations throughout greater New York. The former Harlem Savings Bank building at 124 East 125th Street has been in continuous operation under the same ownership as a bank branch for nearly 96 years.

The former Harlem Savings Bank building is architecturally significant as an example of a Classical Revival bank erected to support the needs of a local community. Its temple front, window and entrance pediments, double-height Ionic columns, and entablature with dentils are distinguishing characteristics of Classicism that the bank exhibits. Its primary façade is constructed of granite and demonstrates a high degree of workmanship. Aside from some minor alterations that include a new metal clock projecting from the portico, a new sign in the frieze, and the removal of the basement wells and railings, the bank's exterior is virtually unchanged from when it was first constructed. The interior has been altered, although the original configuration of the banking hall is apparent, and much of the marble decoration remains. The bank is also significant as an example of one of Harlem's earliest financial institutions. Its location on East 125th Street reflects the important role of this street as Harlem's principal commercial thoroughfare during the early 20th century. Despite minor alterations, the bank retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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"Lexington Avenue, west side, south from East 125th to 124th Street's," August 1911. Photograph from *Photographic Views of New York City, 1870's-1970's, from the collections of the New York Public Library*.

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Harlem Savings Bank

New York County, NY

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	8	5	8	9	5	0	1	4	5	1	7	2	9	0	3														
Zone		Easting				Northi ng				Zone		Easting				Northing													
															4														

Verbal Boundary Description See attached Sanborn land use map for property boundaries.

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By (*See Continuation Sheet for authors*)

name/title Contact: Kathleen A. Howe, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Date March 3, 2003

street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 Telephone 518-237-8643 ext. 3266

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property

Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Harlem Savings Bank c/o Apple Bank for Savings

street & number 122 East 42nd Street telephone 212-224-6400

city or town New York state NY zip code 10168

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. As amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Harlem Savings Bank

Name of Property

New York County, NY

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of this nomination is outlined on the accompanying Sanborn Map. The property occupies Block 1773, Lot 58.

Boundary Description

The nominated property includes the entire lot historically associated with the bank.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 1

Harlem Savings Bank

Name of Property

New York County, NY

County and State

11. Form Prepared By:

Nathan Riddle, Historian
Jennifer Morris, Architectural Historian
Andrea Burk, Architectural Historian
AKRF, Inc.
117 East 29th Street
New York, NY 10016

Phone (212) 696-0670

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 2

Harlem Savings Bank
Name of Property
New York County, NY
County and State

Additional Documentation

List of Photos

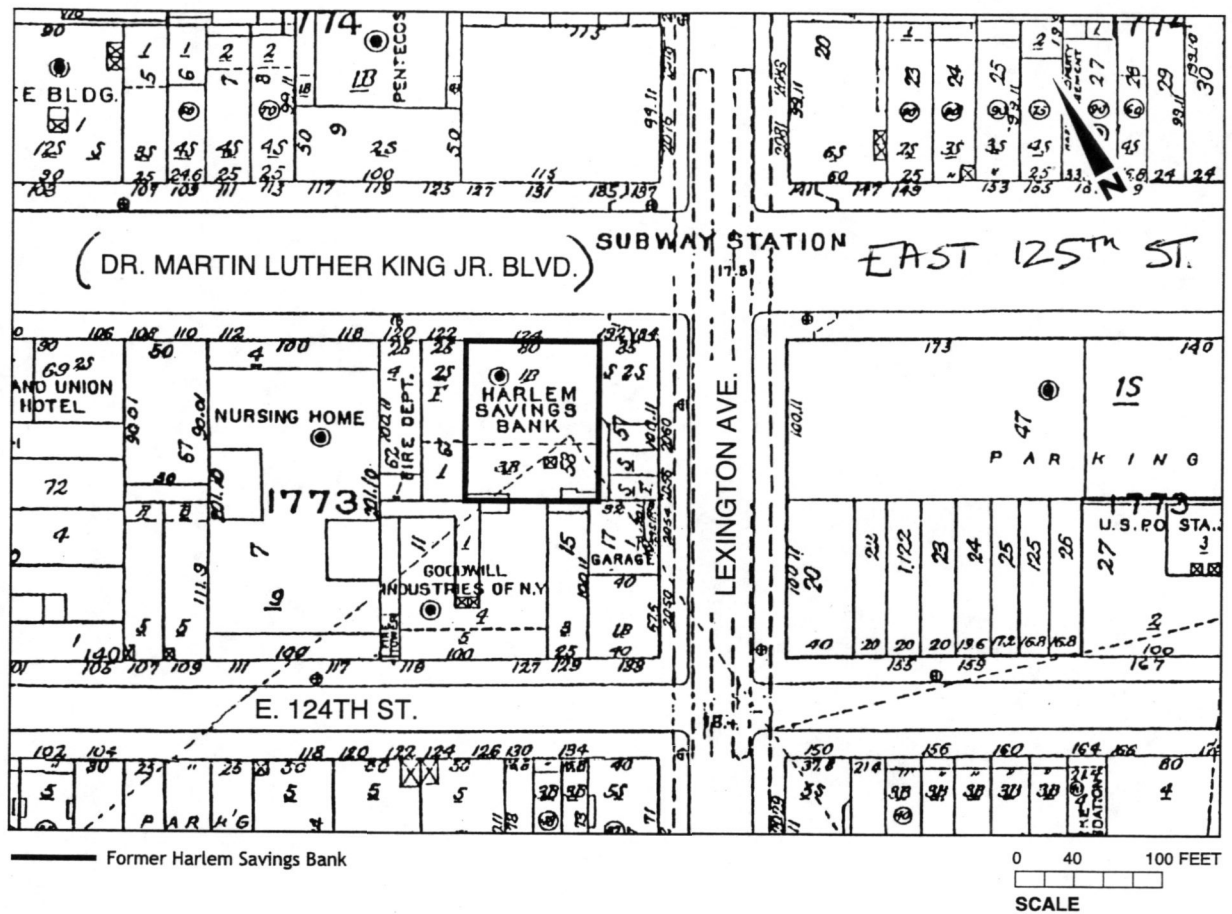
Former Harlem Savings Bank
124 East 125th Street
New York County, NY

Photographer: Nathan J. Riddle
Date of photographs: February 21, 2003
Negatives on file: AKRF, Inc.
117 East 29th Street
New York, NY 10016

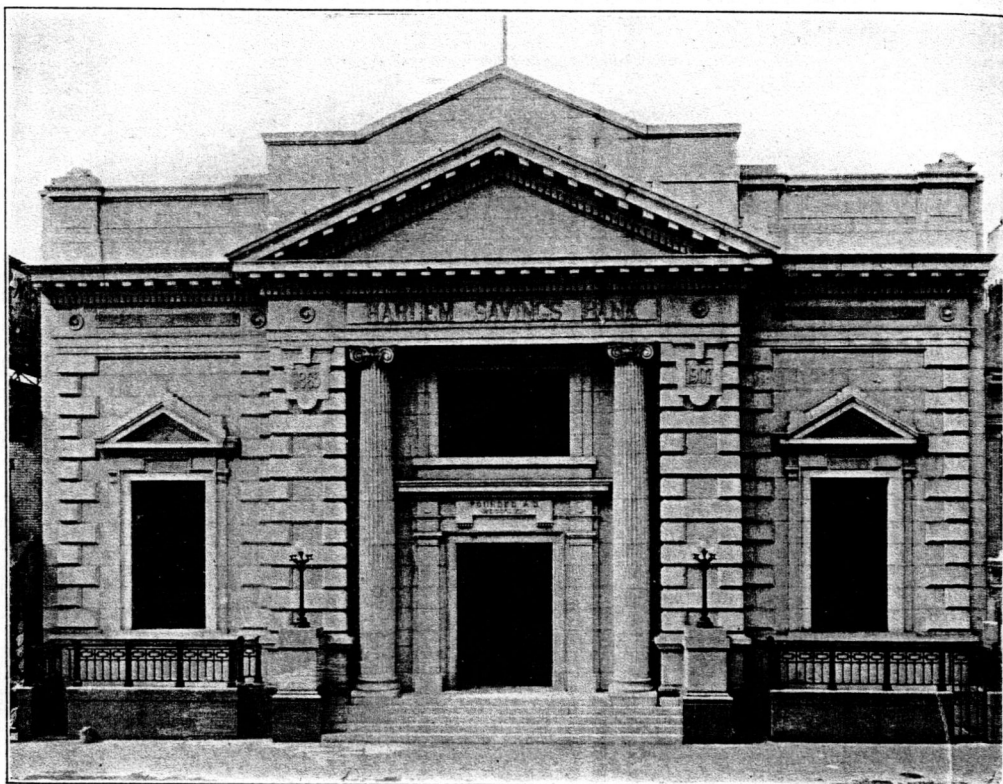
1. North façade, view facing south across East 125th Street.
2. Main banking hall, view south from the west side of the entrance vestibule.
3. Main banking hall, view toward east wall from the west side of the hall.
4. Possible former Board of Directors' Room located on the second floor in the southwest corner of the bank.

Historic Photographs

- A. North façade, 1908. From "Bank Buildings," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine*, Vol 9, no. 11 (August 1908), p. 490.
- B. Interior view of banking hall, facing southward toward the rear of the building, 1908. From "Bank Buildings," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine*, Vol 9, no. 11 (August 1908), p. 491.
- C. Interior view of banking hall, facing northward toward the entrance vestibule, 1908. From "Bank Buildings," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine*, Vol. 9, no. 11 (August 1908), p. 492.
- D. North façade, 1911. This photo shows that, three years after the bank's construction, a clock had been added to the exterior above the entrance, a hand rail had been added to the entrance stairs, and plaques (possible notice boxes) had been added to the pilasters framing the entrance. From the New York Public Library's collection *Photographic Views of New York City, 1870's-1970's*.



Former Harlem Savings Bank
 124 East 125th Street
 New York County, New York
 Boundary indicated by dark line
 Sanborn Map, 2002



HARLEM SAVINGS BANK, 125TH STREET, NEW YORK.

General Contractors: Wakeham & Miller.

Bannister & Schell, Architects.

Fireproof Floor and Roof Construction: Roebling Construction Co.

The Harlem Savings Bank, for the most part a one-story structure, is of interesting design. The exterior of the building is finished in Hallowell granite, with ornamental iron lattice and grille work at the windows, transoms and doorways. The lot is 80 feet front and 101 feet in depth. The largest part of the building is devoted to the banking room, which is 76 feet wide and 70 feet deep. This is lighted by a barrel vault skylight 40 feet wide, running the depth of the room. It is designed in clear-story effect, with side windows for light and ventilation. To either side of the banking enclosure, which is 40 by 50 feet, are corridors 18 feet wide, which are treated as aisles. These are lighted by five dome skylights eight

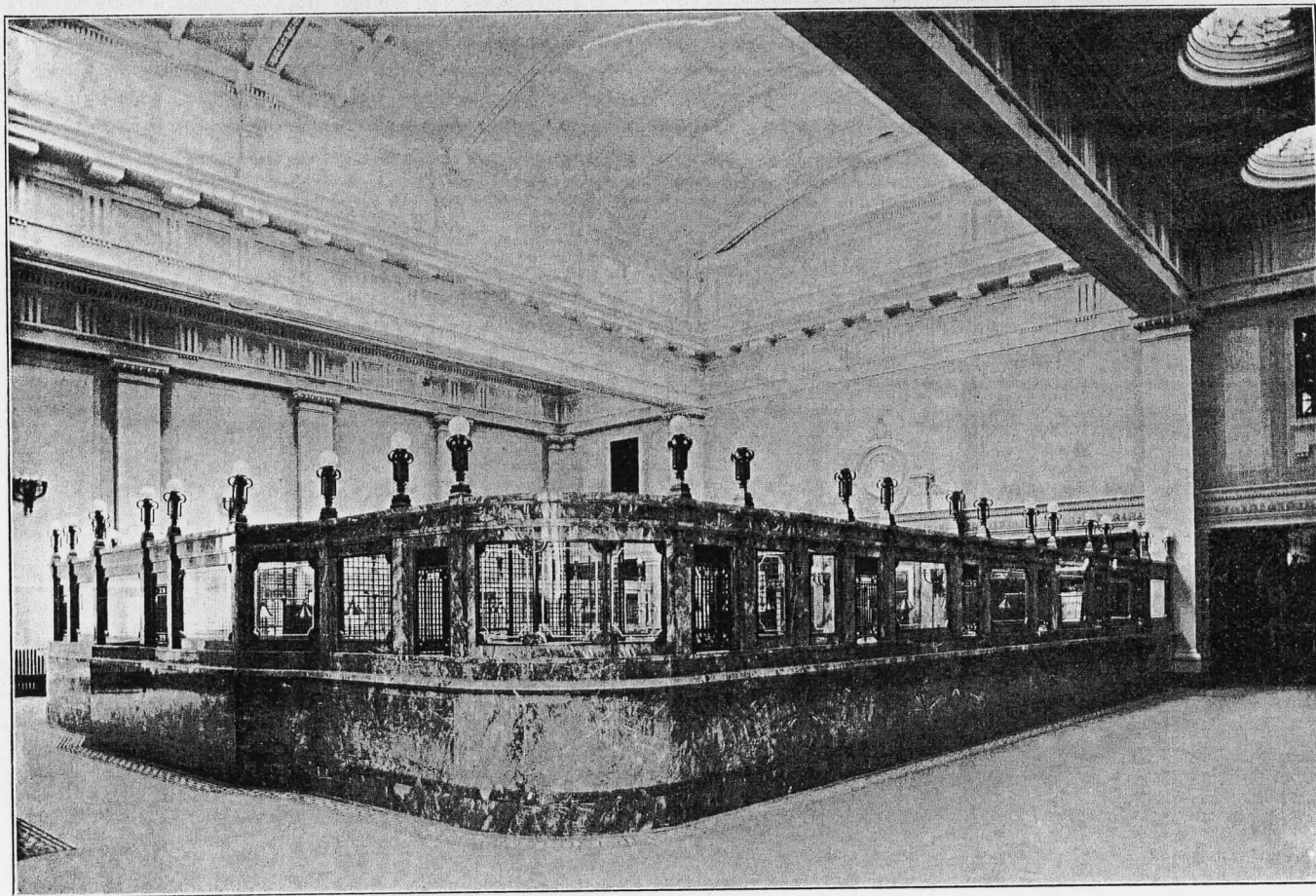
feet in diameter. Corresponding with the domes the side walls are divided into five panels.

The entrance is arranged through an enclosed vestibule, which sets into the front of the banking room. In this there are four double doors, two at either side for entrance and two central ones for exit. The paying teller is on one side of the bank and the receiving teller on the other, so that the traffic of the bank is divided and there will be little chance for crowding.

The interior treatment of the bank follows the classic model of the exterior. The counter screens are of Famosa marble, on the top of which are set light standards, a pair over each window, which gives emphasis to these openings.

Historic Photo A

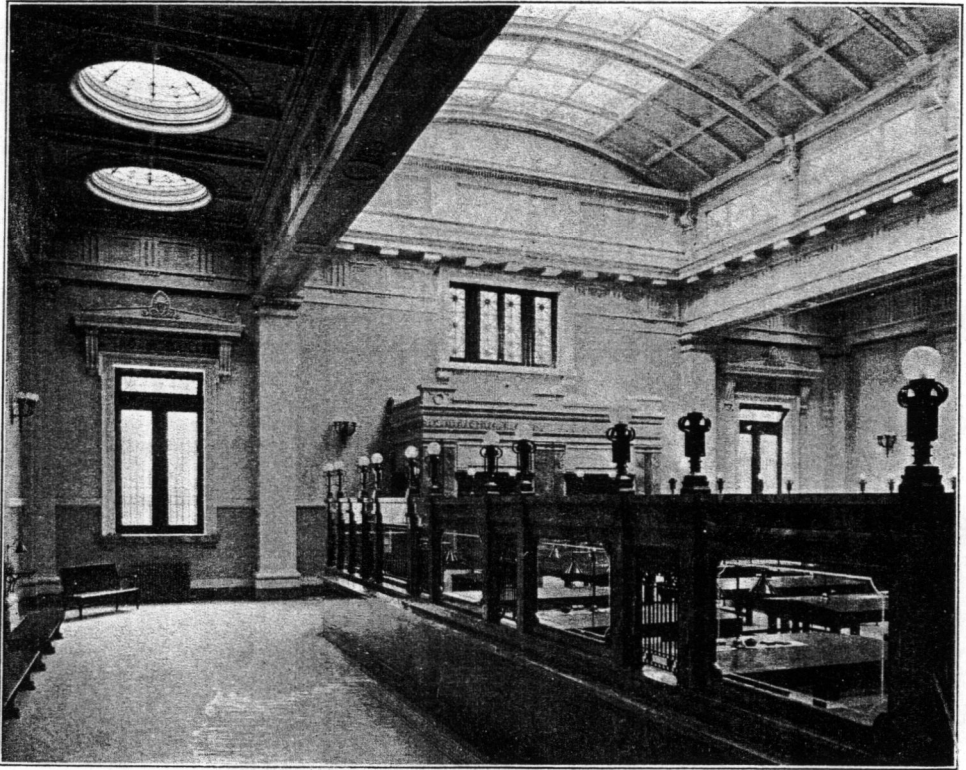
Historic Photo B



HARLEM SAVINGS BANK—INTERIOR.

General Contractors: Wakeham & Miller.
Ornamental Plaster: H. W. Miller, Inc.
Decorations & Painting: H. L. Boughton & Co.
Clock System: Self Winding Clock Co.

Bannister & Schell, Architects.



HARLEM SAVINGS BANK—INTERIOR.

General Contractors: Wakeman & Miller.
Ornamental Plaster: H. W. Miller, Inc.
Decorations and Painting: H. L. Boughton & Co.

Bannister & Schell, Architects.

The five wall panels and flat surfaces are tinted green, with the pilasters and cornices ivory white.

The treatment is extremely simple, but the colors are admirably blended, and the effect is most agreeable. Sufficient ornamentation having been designed and carried out in the plaster work, the tinting in oil color completes the finish. This work, as well as the painting of the private offices and the wood finishing throughout, was done by H. L. Boughton & Co. The plastering, which consists of classic ornamentation about the cornice or frieze, both about the room and in the vaulted skylight, was carried out from the architects' designs by H. W. Miller, Inc.

At the rear of the bank the building is divided into three stories. On the first

floor are the president's and secretary's offices, so arranged that when at their desks these officers may overlook the banking room at all times. The board of directors' room on the second story is finished in mahogany, both trim and furniture. Although the treatment is simple, the interior is dignified and beautiful.

Bannister & Schell were the architects, and the firm of Wakeham & Miller were the general contractors.

The Second National Bank of New York, which for so long a time was located in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in anticipation of the destruction of that structure for rebuilding purposes, has erected a new building of its own, lo-

Historic Photo C

HISTORIC
PHOTO D



Myer & Co. Photo Co.
GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Harlem Savings Bank

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York

DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/13/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/29/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/29/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000849

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/29/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Former Harlem Savings Bank

New York, New York

Nathan J. Riddle

February 21, 2003

Negative held at AKRF, Inc.

Bank exterior view, view south across
East 125th Street

Photograph 1





Former Harlem Savings Bank

New York, New York

Nathan J. Riddle

February 21, 2003

Negative held at AKRF, Inc.

Main banking hall, view toward east wall
From the west side of the hall

Photograph 3



FORMER HARLEM SAVINGS BANK

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NATHAN J. RIDDLE

FEBRUARY 21, 2003

NEGATIVE HELD AT AKRF, INC.

POSSIBLE FORMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROOM, LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR IN THE

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE BANK

PHOTOGRAPH 4



Former Harlem Savings Bank

New York, New York

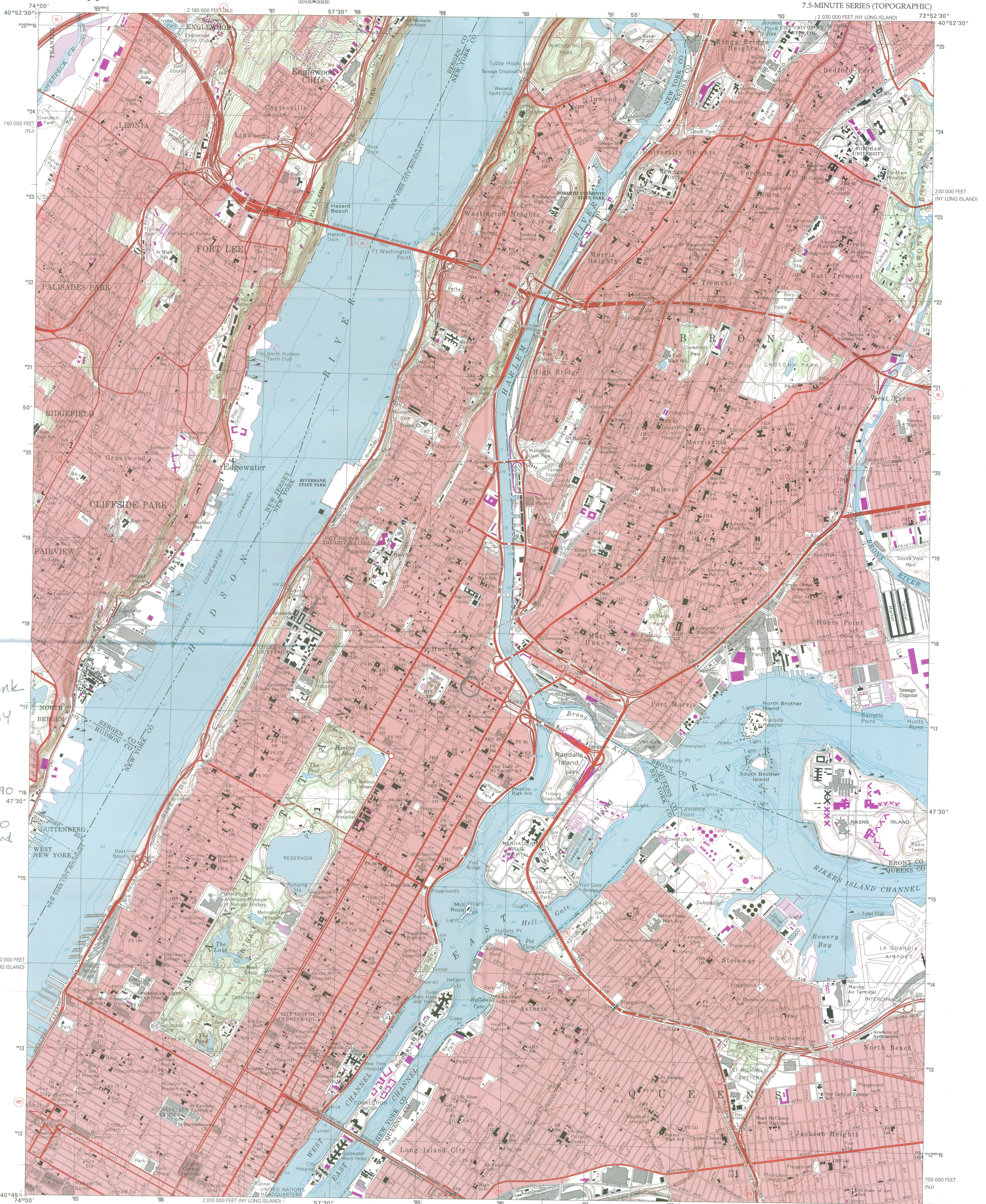
Nathan J. Riddle

February 21, 2003

Negative held at AKRF, Inc.

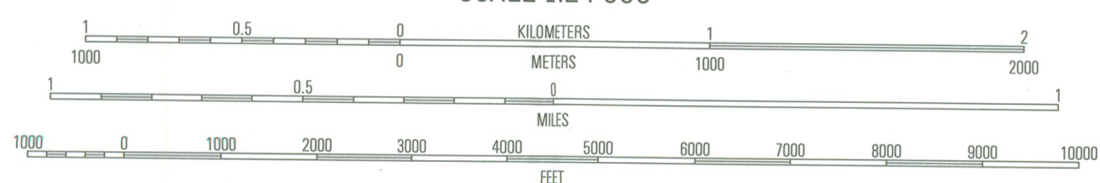
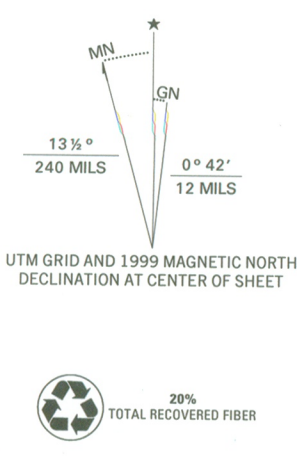
Banking vault, view south to southern
wall of main banking hall

Photograph 5



Harlem Savings Bank
124 E. 125th St
New York Co, NY
Zone 18
Easting: 589501
Northing: 4517290
Scale 1:24000
Central Park Quad

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1966. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1977 and other sources. Photointerpreted using imagery dated 1995; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1966. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1999. Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 226, 274, 745, 746, and 747 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)
Projection: New York coordinate system, Long Island zone (transverse Mercator)
10 000-foot ticks: New York coordinate system, Long Island zone and New Jersey coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET, DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY
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, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

CENTRAL PARK, NY-NJ

1995

NIMA 6265 IV SW-SERIES V821





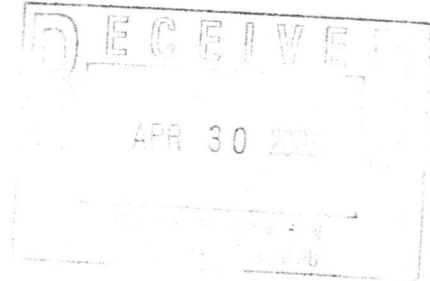
The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North, New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7922 FAX: 212-669-7797

<http://nyc.gov/landmarks/>



RONDA WIST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
rwist@lpc.nyc.gov



April 24, 2003

Ms. Ruth Pierpont, Director
New York State Office of Parks Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

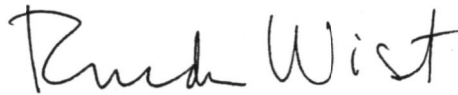
Re: Harlem Savings Bank, New York, New York

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I write on behalf of Chair Robert B. Tierney in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the Harlem Savings Bank in Manhattan for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Commission has reviewed the materials submitted by the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau and believes that the Harlem Savings Bank appears to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,


Ronda Wist

cc: Robert B. Tierney, Chair
Mary Beth Betts



for Savings

Member FDIC
Established 1863

MITCHELL W. JACOBS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
CORPORATE REAL ESTATE

122 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168-0002
(212) 224-6486
mjacobs@apple-bank.com

May 1, 2003

Ms. Kathleen A. Howe
Historic Preservation Specialist
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation &
Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12118

Re: Former Harlem Savings Bank Building
Block 1773, Lot 58
124 East 125th Street
New York, New York

Dear Ms. Howe:

This is to inform you that Apple Bank for Savings is the owner of the property located at 124 East 125th Street, New York, New York 10035.

As Senior Vice President of Apple Bank for Savings, the owner of the above referenced property, I am hereby advising you that Apple Bank for Savings supports such property's consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

Cc: Bruce Herman
Nathan Riddle