

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Albany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
4	SEP 1972

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Albany City Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER: Eagle Street at Maiden Lane	
CITY OR TOWN: Albany	
STATE New York	CODE 36
COUNTY: Albany	CODE 001

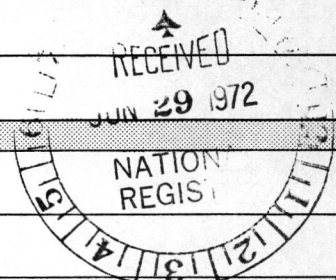
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐	Public ☒ Private ☐ Both ☐	Public Acquisition: In Process ☐ Being Considered ☐	Occupied ☒ Yes: Unoccupied ☐ Restricted ☒ Preservation work in progress ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No: ☐
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural ☐	Government ☒	Park ☐	Transportation ☐ Comments ☐
Commercial ☐	Industrial ☐	Private Residence ☐	Other (Specify) ☐
Educational ☐	Military ☐	Religious ☐	
Entertainment ☐	Museum ☐	Scientific ☐	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNERS NAME: City of Albany	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Albany	STATE: New York
	CODE 36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Albany County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: Eagle Street between Pine and Columbia Streets	
CITY OR TOWN: Albany	STATE: New York
	CODE 36
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Hudson River Valley Commission Inventory	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1965	Federal ☐ State ☒ County ☐ Local ☐
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Hudson River Valley Commission	
STREET AND NUMBER: 105 White Plains Road	
CITY OR TOWN: Tarrytown	STATE: New York
	CODE 36

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	New York
COUNTY:	Albany
ENTRY NUMBER	4
DATE	SEP 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent ☐	Good ☒	Fair ☐	Deteriorated ☐	Ruins ☐	Unexposed ☐
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered ☐	Unaltered ☒	Moved ☐	Original ☒		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a sloping site at the terminus of Washington Avenue, the imposing City Hall is visible blocks away in downtown Albany. The front (west) facade is of two contrasting components: 1) the expansive and solid main portion of the building, three and a half stories high and six bays wide and 2) the slender the comparatively delicate, square 202' high tower with a pyramidal roof. Due to the assymetrical placing of the tower Henry Russell Hitchcock judges that the best view of the building is from the southwest (see photograph). From this viewpoint the tower is flanked by the west (front) facade and the similar but simpler south (side) facade.

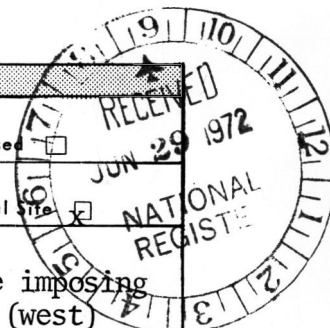
The consistant use of materials and recurring decorative motifs unify the vertical tower and the essentially horizontal main block of the building. The exterior walls are constructed of rusticated granite with brown-stone trim delineating the stories and accentuating the lintels and arches. The combination of these two materials created a polychrome effect which has been subdud with the years of city grime. A terra cotta flower motif and a geometric pattern of triangles can be found in the cornice, front gable and archways throughout the main portion of the building and tower.

The compound arches of the front entrance have tiers of relief sculpture and gargoyles. Other carved figures are interspersed along the exterior mostly on the front (west) facade, however, the north and south sides have some sculptural details and roll mouldings for lintels. Due to their intricacy and comparative delicacy these details are hardly discernable from a distance and therefore are secondary to the exterior design as a whole.

Many elements of the exterior design reflect functions of the interior spaces. The virtually windowless tower was built to contain the city archives and is accessible by a stairway turret on the southeast of the tower. Since the City Council Chamber is located on the second floor over the main entrance hall the second story of the exterior facade is of equal height and grandeur as the first. Three compound arches accentuate the entrance on the first floor, and above on the second the Council Chamber opens out onto a loggia framed by four arches.

A cruciform roof pattern is made by the intersection of a north-south gable roof and an east-west hip roof which is one story higher dwarfing the front dormer. On the interior a large open stairway is located at the crossing. On the exterior two stone chimneys are located at the intersection of the gable and hip roofs.

The short, stockey tower on the southeast corner of the building was to be the transition to the jail in the architects original plan (see "study for rear of City Hall, Albany"). The jail and the "bridge of sighs" designed to bring prisoners directly from the cells to the court rooms were never built, and due to shortage of funds Richardson was not hired to design the interior of the City Hall itself.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1881

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☒Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☒Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐ArchitectureAgriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

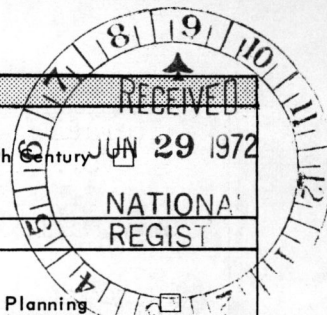
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

A fine example of Henry H. Richardson's mature style, the Albany City Hall is a key landmark in a visually compelling and architecturally sophisticated urban environment.

The building was commissioned in 1880 to replace the old City Hall that had been destroyed by fire and therefore it dates from a period (1878-1883) generally considered Richardson's architectural peak. Henry-Russell Hitchcock describes the building as "one of Richardson's most romanesque designs," but also emphasizes Richardson's wide range of sources and disregard for "archeological correctness."¹ Thus Richardson's buildings are better described in terms of a personal style, and the Albany City Hall's banded arches, rhythmic fenestration, bold expression of materials and corner placement of the tower are characteristic features of Richardson's work often to be repeated by his followers. At the corner of the massive main structure, the two hundred foot archive tower is a harbinger of "modern architecture" in scale and verticality. /

Within clear view from the City Hall steps are many of Albany's finest government and institutional buildings. On a diagonal to the northwest of City Hall looms the huge and yet whimsical State Capitol which combines as many architectural styles as architects (including Richardson) collaborated in its long term construction. The juxtaposition of the State Capitol and the City Hall affords a special opportunity to see the progression of Richardson's style from the 1870's to the 1880's. Different though the City Hall and State Capitol are in architectural styles, the exterior stone details show remarkable similarity as the same crew of stone cutters who originally came to Albany to work on the State Capitol were later hired for the sculptural details of the City Hall. Other distinguished buildings, all of which are listed on the National Register, surrounding the City Hall are the State Education Building, the Old Albany Academy, the Elk Street houses and the Court of Appeals.

¹Henry-Russell Hitchcock, The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times. M.I.T.: 1961. p. 215.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Alterations to the City Hall at Albany, New York" American Architect,
Vol. 117 pt. 2 (June 30, 1920) pp. 809-815.

"City Hall, Albany," Building Vol. 6 (May 28, 1887).

Hitchcock, Henry Russel. Architecture of H.H. Richardson. New York:
Museum of Modern Art. 1936.

Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Schuyler. H. H. Richardson and His Works. New York:
Houghton Mifflin Co., 1888.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 39' 07"	73° 45' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Chester H. Liebs</u>		REVISED BY: <u>Cornelia E. Brooke, Research Assistant</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>New York State Historic Trust</u>		DATE REVISED <u>May 1972</u>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Building 2, State Campus</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Albany</u>		STATE <u>New York</u>	CODE <u>36</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

State Liaison Officer
Chairman, NYS Historic Trust

Title

Date

8/21/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Peter H. Wey
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

9/4/72

ATTEST:

William H. Hunt
Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/600050/4700680
JTM:et-um
2-20-76

RECEIPT: PROPERTY Albany, Hall STATE Albany Co. NY

DATE OF RECEIPT 9/20/71 YES ☒ NO ☐ NUMBER

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

RESUBMIT 6/29/72 9/20/71

REVIEW OK As usual # 7 is minimal, but just because it's by H.A. Richardson is enough.

HISTORIAN Agree with al + Betty + Sally Historically

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT Unless Peter has enough to go on, I'd suggest returning for better # 7. Surely a bldg. of this significance could have more said about it. Chambers 1-5-72

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR Agree with al & Betty. 3 Manuscripts 1/7/72

CHIEF, OAHF

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR If this is a Richardson bldg., # 7 should point out the characteristics of his style that it evidences.

Federal Register Entry 10-2-72 Annual Edition Entry

Logged 4 SEP 1972 Card 4 SEP 1972

COMMENTS: sent back 2/14/72
- stylistic judgements
re-write 7+8

WORKING NUMBER 9.20.71.2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED.

DATE

2/14/72

NAME OF PROPERTY

Albany City Hall

NY

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

Rec'd
6/29/72

____ Insufficient locational information.

____ Owner of property/location of legal description necessary.

____ Geographical location codes missing or incorrect.

____ No bibliography.

____ Classification (Item #3) incomplete.

____ Chemical copies of forms unacceptable.

____ Acreage

Comments:

____ Insufficient map coverage of property.

Comments:

XX Description (Item #7).

Comments: Please describe in stylistic terms and make professional value judgments.

XX Statement of Significance (Item #8).

Comments:

Since buildings entered on the Register are eventually included in the biennial publication, and a paragraph appears for each one, we need more information in terms of the style of this building. Perhaps some of the characteristics of Richardson's style exhibited here. The methods in McKee's Recording American Buildings are suited for H.A.B.S. purposes but our broader interests mitigate against its format for National Register purposes. (See S.L.O. Newsletter for Feb., 1972.)

Clarification or correction of the items noted above must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors or deficiencies does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteria in full.

Thank you,

SIGNED

Robert J. Mullen



NPS Number 4 Sep 1972

Title Albany City Hall

Albany, N.Y.

Looking east showing west

facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE New York	
COUNTY	
Albany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
4	SEP 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Albany City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Eagle Street at Maiden Lane

CITY OR TOWN:

Albany

STATE:

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY:

Albany

CODE

001

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: New York State Historic Trust

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

New York State Historic Trust

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View looking east down Washington Avenue showing west
(Eagle Street) facade



Albany City Hall

March 1972

C.E. Brooke

View looking NE

NPS Number Sep 4 1972

Title: Albany City Hall

Loc. Albany County, N.Y.
Looking N.E.

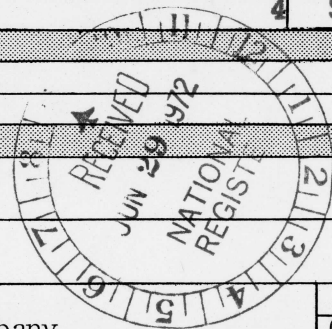
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE New York	
COUNTY Albany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 4	DATE SEP 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Albany City Hall			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Eagle Street at Maiden Lane			
CITY OR TOWN: Albany			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: Albany	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: C. E. Brooke, New York State Historic Trust			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: New York State Historic Trust			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View looking northeast from park in front of State Capitol.			

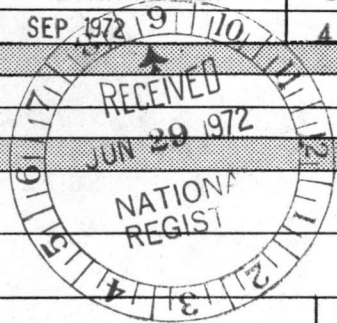
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

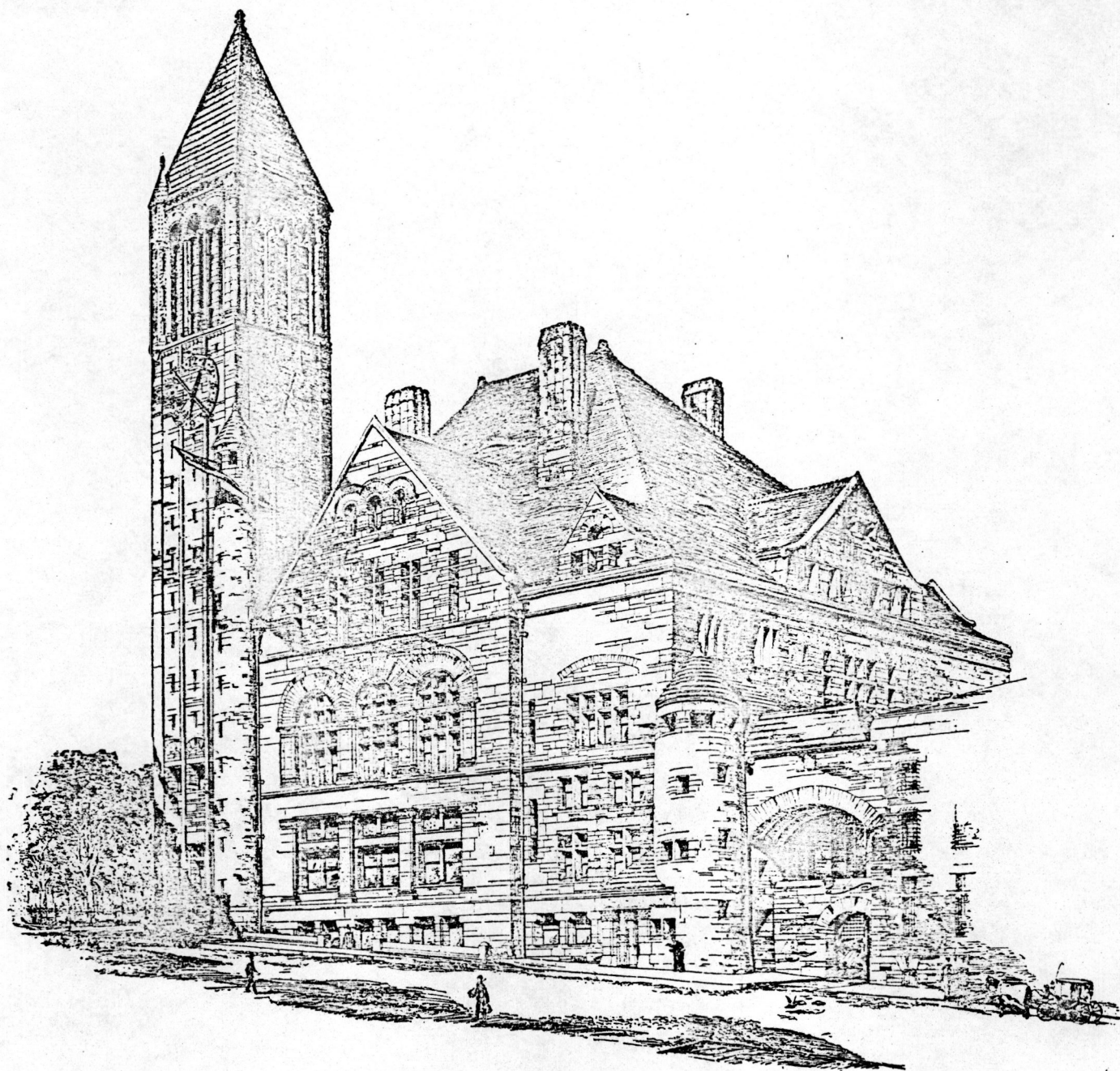
STATE New York	
COUNTY Albany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
4 SEP 1972	4 SEP 1972

1972

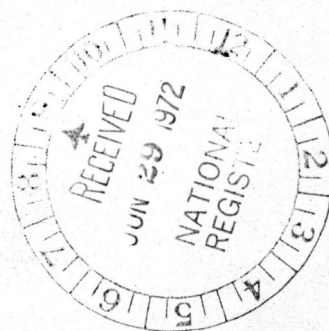


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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Eagle Street at Maiden Lane			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Albany			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New York	36	Albany	001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Van Rensselaer, Henry Hobson Richardson and his works p. 83.			
DATE OF PHOTO: reprinted, Dover: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
"Study for Rear of City Hall, Albany" showing south elevation as originally planned.			

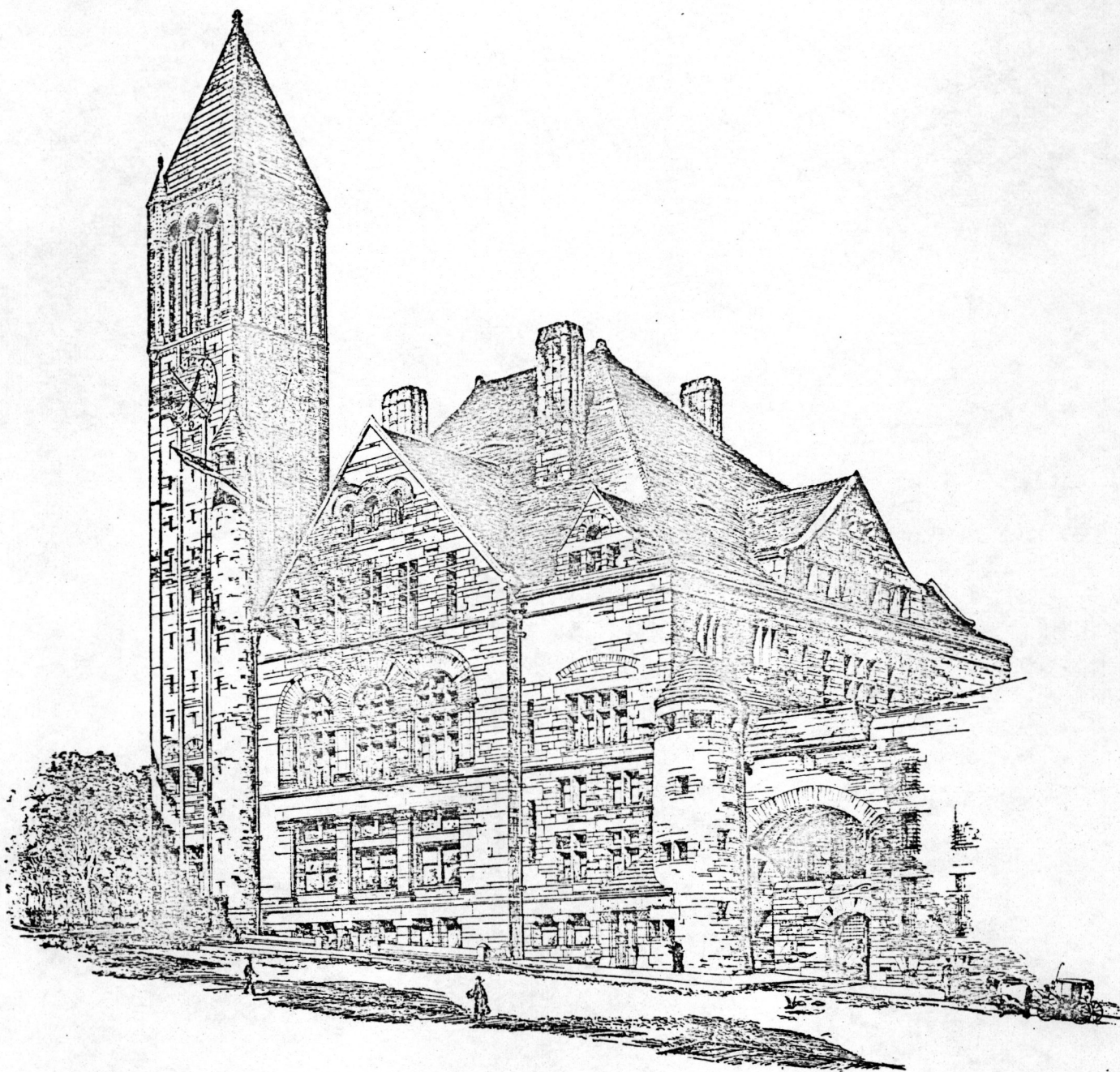


STUDY FOR REAR OF CITY HALL, ALBANY.



Mariana Giswold van Rensselaer, Henry Hobson Richardson
and his works . Reprinted by Dover Books : 1969

p. 83.



STUDY FOR REAR OF CITY HALL, ALBANY.

Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer, Henry Hobson Richardson
and his Works. Reprinted by Dover Books: 1969

p. 83

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

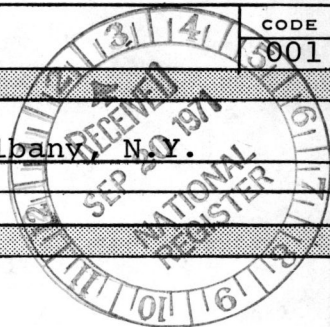
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Albany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 4	DATE SEP 1972

1. NAME			
COMMON: Albany City Hall			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Eagle Street at Maiden Lane			
CITY OR TOWN: Albany			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: Albany	CODE 001
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Quadrangle 7.5 minute series, Albany, N.Y.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

PH0008907

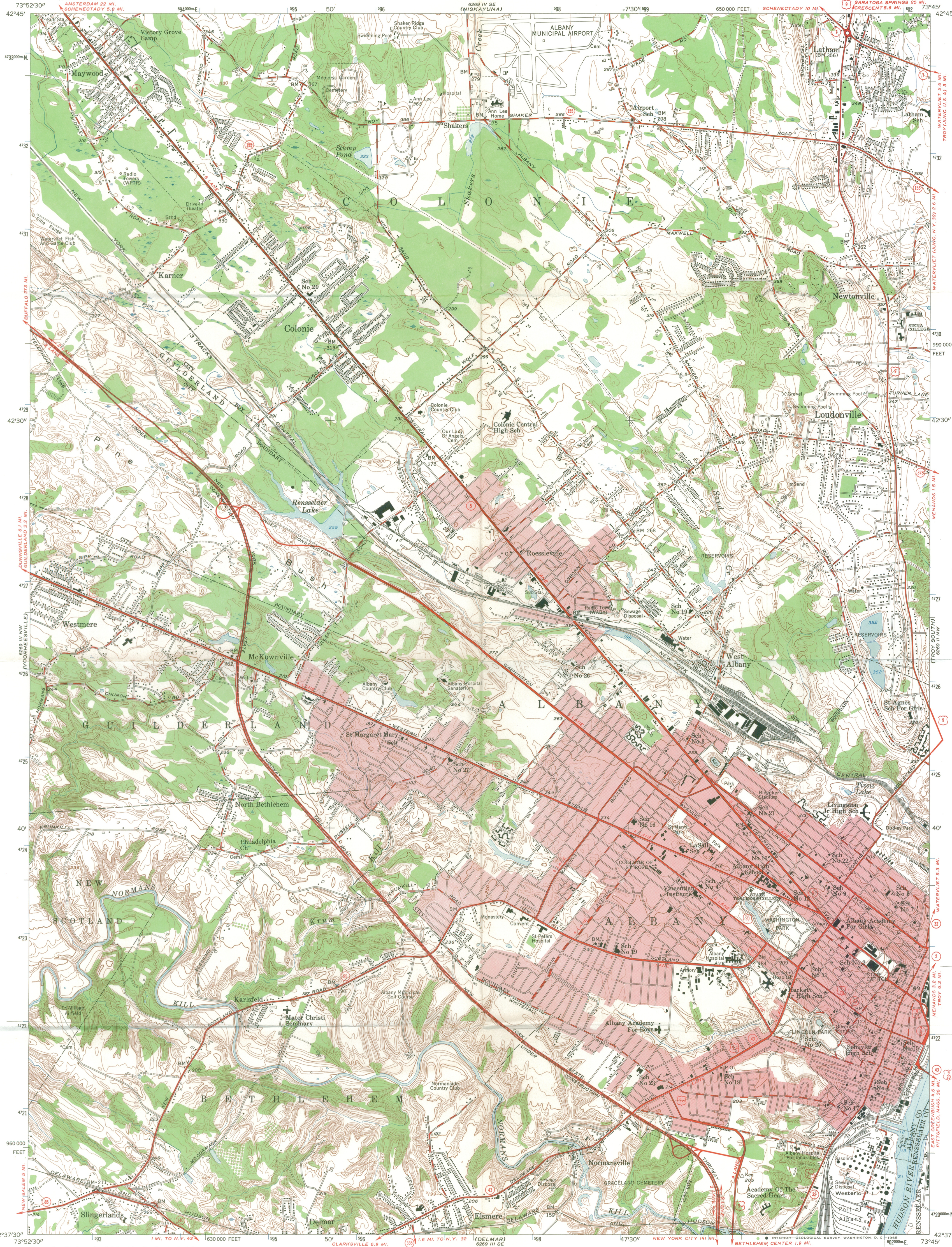
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



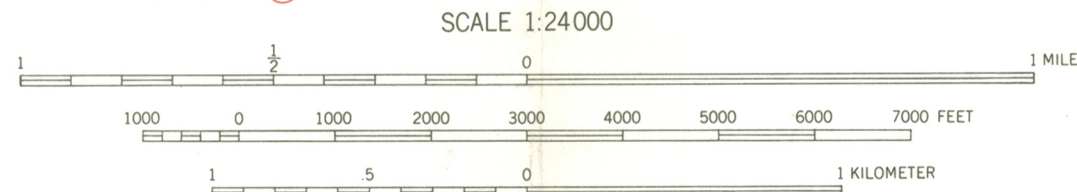
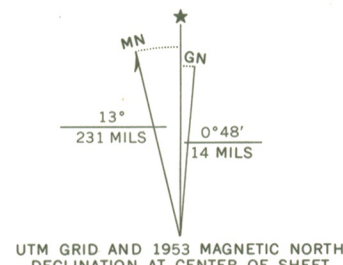
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ALBANY QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE 1/4 ALBANY 15' QUADRANGLE
SARATOGA SPRINGS 25 MI.
JOHNSBURGH 5.6 MI.



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953
Hydrography from USC&GS chart 284 dated 1942
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
east zone
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



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 4.4 FEET

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 ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

ALBANY, N.Y.
NE 1/4 ALBANY 15' QUADRANGLE
N4237.5-W7345/7.5
1953
AMS 6269 III NE-SERIES V821



NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST

PARKS AND RECREATION • STATE OFFICE CAMPUS • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12226 • 518-457-4194

LOUIS C. JONES
Chairman

CONRAD L. WIRTH
Vice-Chairman

EWALD B. NYQUIST

SEYMOUR H. KNOX

JOHN H. G. PELL

LAURANCE S. ROCKEFELLER

MILDRED F. TAYLOR

C. MARK LAWTON
Director

August 13, 1971

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
801 19th Street., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As Chairman of the New York State Historic Trust, the officially designated State Preservation Agency, and as the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nominations to the National Register of Historic Places:

City Hall, Albany

Pastures Preservation District, Albany

The above nominations have been reviewed and approved by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the Trust would welcome the opportunity to discuss these submissions with your office.

Sincerely yours,



STATE OF NEW YORK

PARKS & RECREATION

SAL J. PREZIOSO
Commissioner

Louis C. Jones
Chairman





NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST

PARKS AND RECREATION • STATE OFFICE CAMPUS • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12226 • 518-457-4194

Joseph V. Noble

~~LOUIS C. JONES~~
Chairman

June 15, 1972

CONRAD L. WIRTH
Vice-Chairman

EWALD B. NYQUIST

SEYMOUR H. KNOX

JOHN H. G. PELL

LAURANCE S. ROCKEFELLER

MILDRED F. TAYLOR

C. MARK LAWTON
Director

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Room 3209
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Albany City Hall, Albany, New York

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Historic Trust would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Jones
State Liaison Officer



STATE OF NEW YORK

PARKS & RECREATION

SAL J. PREZIOSO
Commissioner



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered 4 SEP 1972

Name

Location

Albany City Hall

Albany
Albany County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
Hon. James L. Buckley
Hon. Samuel S. Stratton

Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer
Mr. Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner of Parks & Recreation
New York State Historic Trust
Building 2 - State Campus
Albany, New York 12226

HR SAMarusin:mm 8/28/72