

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 18 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:

First National City Bank

AND/OR HISTORIC:

(Merchant's Exchange)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

55 Wall Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY:

New York

CODE

061

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ 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

OWNER'S NAME:

First National City Bank

STREET AND NUMBER:

55 Wall Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE

36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

New York County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:

31 Chambers Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE

New York

CODE

36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: **Dec. 21, 1965**

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

305 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE

36

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	New York
COUNTY:	New York
ENTRY NUMBER	OCT 18 1972
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Rep. Bella Abzug

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Fair

(Check One)

☐ Deteriorated

☐ Ruins

☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered

☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved

☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number of stories:

The building is a total of eight stories high with basement. It consists of the original structure and a later addition, each of four stories.

Number of bays:

The Wall Street (north) facade is thirteen bays wide. The sides on William Street (east), Exchange Place (south) and Hanover Street (west) are respectively ten, thirteen and eight bays wide.

Layout and/or shape of plan:

The building is quadrilateral, no sides of which are equal or parallel.

Wall construction:

The walls are constructed of ashlar granite masonry.

Structural system:

The exterior walls of the original structure are masonry bearing wall with the steel-framed later addition superimposed on them.

Roof, cornice:

A roof cornice extends around the four sides of the building with a masonry parapet above. In addition, the cornice capping the original structure now forms an entablature separating the original structure from the addition.

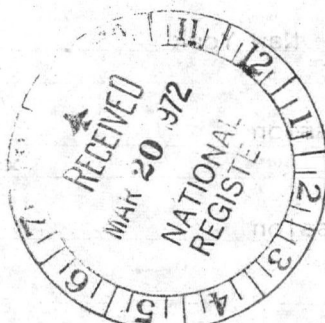
Important interior features:

The great banking hall in the center of the building with coffered ceiling is one of the great interior spaces of New York City.

Other notable features:

There are two colonnades superimposed, the first of Ionic columns and the second of Corinthian columns.

On the Wall Street front, a Corinthian colonnade is superimposed upon the original Ionic colonnade. The fluted shafts of the lower colonnade consists of monolithic blocks of stone.



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) base, 1842; upper stories, 1907.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Science

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Sculpture

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Theater

☒ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ Transportation

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Conservation

☐ Music



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First National City Bank Building is an extremely handsome and imposing Classical building, which is exceptional as one of the City's comparatively few Landmark buildings fully exposed on all four sides and one of outstanding buildings in New York City designed upon a truly monumental scale. Executed in the finest masonry materials, it has what are probably the tallest monolithic columns in the City. In its overall proportions, and in the excellence of its details, designed by the outstanding architects of successive generations - this impressive building achieved the successful solution of a most demanding set of requirements and represents, in its present form, an architectural masterpiece.

Despite its unified appearance, this remarkable building represents two periods in its construction. The great monolithic Ionic columns of the lower colonnade belong to the Greek Revival period of architecture of the 1830's while the upper colonnade represents an addition of the early part of the Twentieth Century. The upper colonnade is traditionally correct as it superimposes Corinthian columns above Ionic, in accordance with Classic precedent.

The placing of one colonnade upon another is a familiar theme derived from the classical architecture of Greece and Rome, as seen in the Roman Coliseum with its three tiers; and in various Forums, or market places, with two tiers. Here the attic story also forms a cohesive part of the architectural design, relating to Andrea Palladio's design for the 16th century Palazzo Bonin Thiene at Vicenza.

The lower portion of the bank was built for the Merchant's Exchange as a fireproof building replacing the older building in the Great Fire of 1835. It was designed by Isaiah Rogers, architect of several fine Greek Revival hotels both here and in other cities. The then Exchange was built between 1836 and 1842. In 1862 this building became the United States Custom House. When the Custom House finally moved to the Battery, the National City Bank saved this building by acquiring it. The upper portion of the building represents the skillful addition made for the bank in 1907 by McKim, Mead & White, the outstanding firm of architects of that day.

As one of the great monumental Classical buildings of the City, the First National City Bank is important as an example of commercial power, visibly expressed in stone and mortar. It is also a remarkably successful example of greatly enlarging a building while successfully maintaining its good proportions and adhering to the formal traditions of Classical architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		40° 42' 22"	74° 00' 35"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **under one acre**

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: Stephen S. Lash, Ellen Rosebrock, Associates		DATE January 26, 1972
ORGANIZATION New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway		
CITY OR TOWN: New York	STATE New York	CODE 36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Stephen S. Lash

Title **Chairman, N.Y. State Historic Trust**

Date

22 II 72

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

10/18/72

ATTEST:

William H. Murray
Keeper of The National Register

Date

10-12-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/583640/4506390
4-19-76
UTM RE-UN

DUPLICATE
(This is not an original)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

72000872

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
(MERCHANT'S EXCHANGE)
NEW YORK CO. NY

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: _____

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/18/72

☐ RETURN _____

☐ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

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

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____



First National City Bank
55 Wall Street

1st National City Bank
55 Wall St.

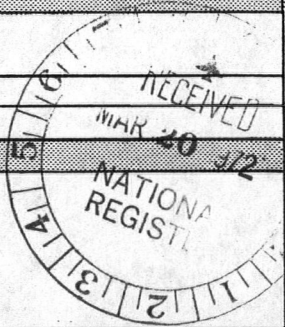
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE New York	
COUNTY New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 18 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: First National City Bank			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 55 Wall Street			
CITY OR TOWN: New York			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: New York	CODE 061
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS Quadrangle, 7.5' Series Jersey City, N.J. - N.Y.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE:			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



PH0030601

6265 IV SW
(CENTRAL PARK)

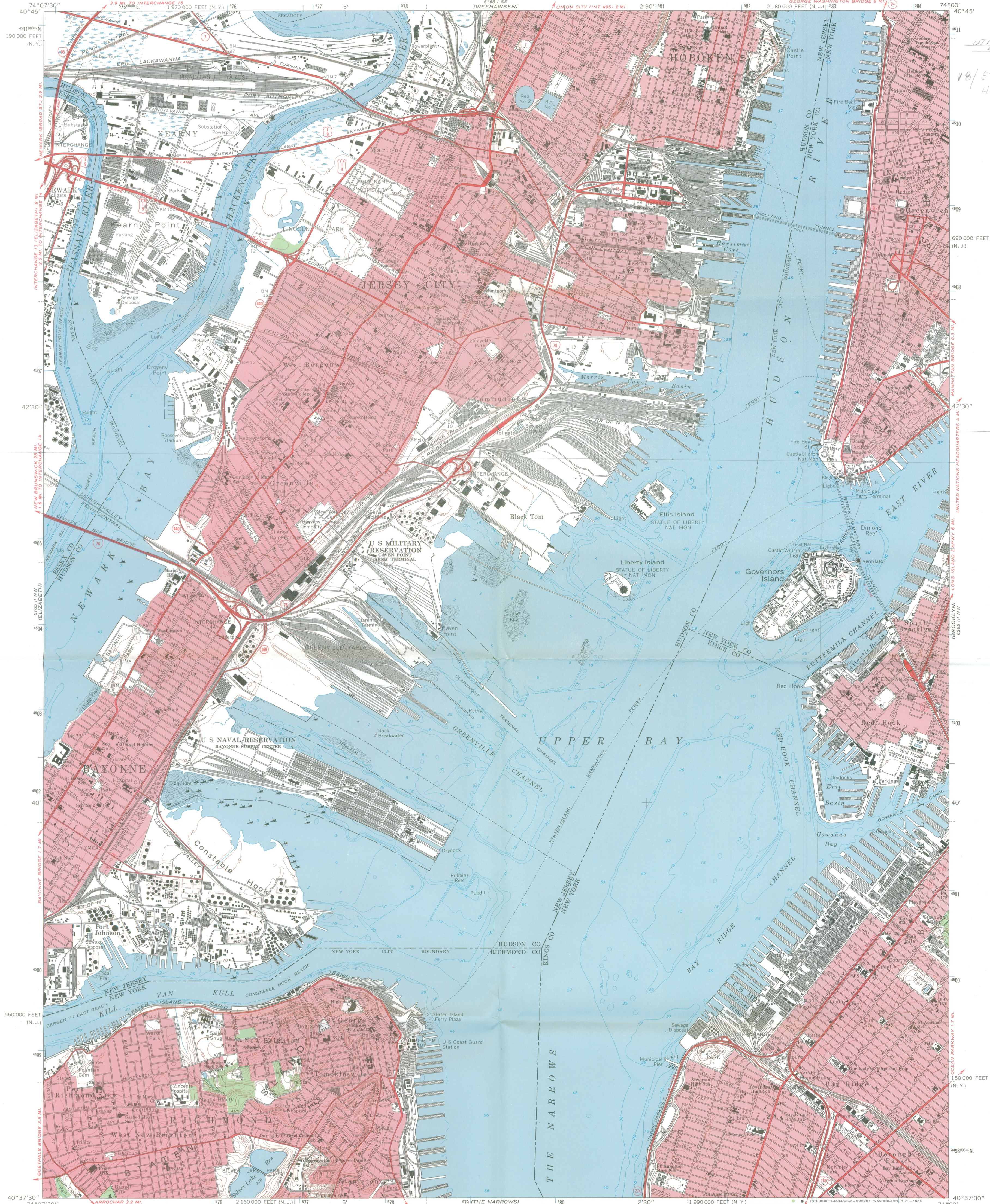
GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE 8 MI

INT. 495) 2 MI. 2'30" 581 582 2 180 000 FEET (N. J.) 583 584 74°00'



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

JERSEY CITY QUADRANGLE
NEW JERSEY-NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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



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

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

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

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

1967
AMS 6165 II NE—SERIES V822

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

24 February 1972

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

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

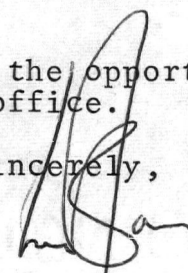
As Chairman of the New York State Historic Trust, the officially designated State Preservation Agency, and as the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nominations to the National Register of Historic Places:

First National City Bank, New York County
J. P. Morgan & Co. Building, New York County

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,


Louis C. Jones
Chairman



4

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered OCT 18 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
First National City Bank	New York New York County
Municipal Building	New York New York County
Coeymans (Ariaanje) House	Coeymans Albany County
South Street Seaport	New York New York County
Walnut Grove	Jamestown Chautauqua County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
Hon. James L. Buckley
Hon. Bella S. Abzug
Hon. Samuel S. Stratton
Hon. James F. Hastings
Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer
Mr. Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner of Parks & Recreation
Room 303, South Swan Street Building
Albany, New York 12223

HR

NRowland:mmm 10/17/72