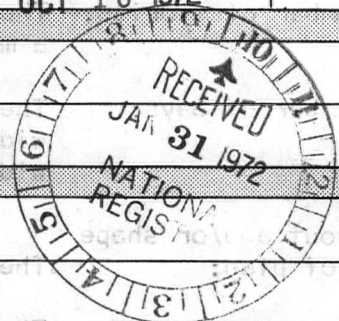


2/2/77

**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:

Municipal Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Chambers at Centre Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

New York

36

New York

061

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
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial
☐ Educational ☐ Military
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum

- ☐ Park
☐ Private Residence
☐ Religious
☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

City of New York

STREET AND NUMBER:

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:

February 1, 1966

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

365 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE

36

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
New York

COUNTY:
New York

OCT 18 1972

ENTRY NUMBER

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 skyscraper rises to a height of 25 stories with a multistoried tower above.

Number of bays: The West (front) facade on Center Street is 25 bays wide, the north and south ends are each three bays wide; the East facade is 25 bays wide.

Layout and/or shape of plan: The building is a shallow "C" shape in plan.

Wall construction: The walls are of Ashlar granite

Structural system: The building is steel frame construction.

Roof, cornice: The north and south ends are capped by low pavillion roofs which are connected to the central tower by roof decks. There is a heavy stone cornice with a band of stone ornament carried on modillions at roof deck level.

Porches: On the west side, there is a monumental freestanding screen of columns across the front incorporating a central classical triumphal arch motif. There is an open loggia under the south wing.

Other notable features: This large building is designed to bridge Chambers Street by means of a handsome barrel-vaulted passageway. The tower is crowned by two tiers of columns of diminishing proportions, supporting a statue. Four low corner turrets make the transition from the square tower to the curved upper portions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

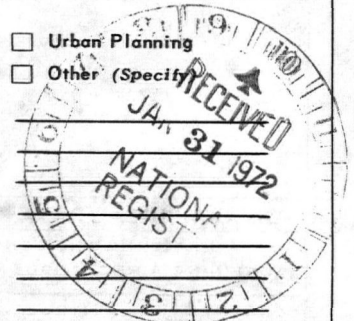
- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1912-14

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal
☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic
☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture
☐ Art
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Conservation | ☐ Education
☐ Engineering
☐ Industry
☐ Invention
☐ Landscape
☐ Literature
☐ Military
☐ Music | ☒ Political
☐ Religion/Philosophy
☐ Science
☐ Sculpture
☐ Social/Humanitarian
☐ Theater
☐ Transportation | ☐ Urban Planning
☐ Other (Specify) |
|---|---|--|---|



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Municipal Building, designed by William M. Kendall of the well known architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, represents an early attempt to combine many city agencies and departments under one roof. This building was one of the first great civic office buildings and set a precedent followed in many other cities.

In style, the building draws inspiration from both Roman antique and Italian Renaissance sources. Its monumental screen of Corinthian columns linking the two side wings, dominated by the triumphal arch motif where it spans Chambers Street, is Roman in inspiration. The entablature which crowns this screen of columns extends around the entire building, unifying the composition. Above this level a smooth ashlar shaft of masonry, pierced by windows, rises to a pseudo-loggia surmounted by a handsome cornice, maintaining the analogy between the "skyscraper" and the classical column: both consisting of base, shaft and capital.

The central tower, which rises above Chambers Street, displays classical profile, surmounted by Adolph A. Weinman's heroic figure of "Civic Fame" in copper, twenty feet high, poised on a large copper ball.

One of the most daring features of this innovative design was the bridging of Chambers Street. The Street, passing through the main body of the building itself, separates it into two lobbies from which banks of elevators rise to serve the upper floors. The actual passage for the street itself is made beneath the barrel vault which is ornamented by bas-relief panels in which the Italian Renaissance decorative motifs are reminiscent of those of the entrance to the main courtyard at the Palazzo Farnese in Rome.

South of the elevator lobby the building is raised on columns with vaults of Guastavino tile, providing free pedestrian access and circulation. Thus the building anticipated the 20th century concept of opening up the building at ground floor level.

It should be noted that this is one of the few buildings in New York City, which was designed as a terminal feature, visually closing the vista along Chambers Street, and creating a bounded space in contrast to the endless vista of most of other New York streets, as established by the monotonous grid plan.

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			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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	40°	42'	47"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	74°	00'	15"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

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 and Ellen Rosebrock, Associates		DATE Sept 14, 1971
ORGANIZATION: New York City Landmarks Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway		
CITY OR TOWN: New York	STATE: New York	CODE: 36

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

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

Date

24 7 72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 M. Bennett
Keeper of The National Register

Date

10-16-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/584/40/4567160
UTM 28-unc
4-19-76

New York

Municipal Building

12000879
STATE NY

PROPERTY

STATE

DATE OF RECEIPT

4/31/72 YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

RESUBMIT

2/1/72

OCT 18 1972 RECEIVED

JAN 31 1972

NATIONAL
REGISTER

tech ok 3/29/72 jlb

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

OK
meagan
9/1/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers
9-25-72

ASST. KEEPER

OK
10/12/72

KEEPER

OK
10-16

WRITER/EDITOR

OK meagan
9/11/72

CHIEF, OAHF

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Registry Entry

11-7-72

Annual Edition Entry

LOGGED

OCT 18 1972

CARD

OCT 18 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

1.31.72.170

CONGRESSIONAL DIST.

Bella S. Abzug



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number Oct. 18, 1972
Title: Municipal Building
Loc. New York County, N.Y.
Front of building looking
down Chambers Street

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

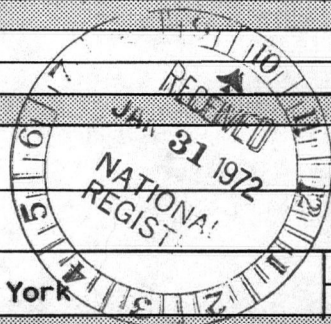
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Municipal Building			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Chambers at Centre Street			
CITY OR TOWN: New York			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: New York	CODE 06 1
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS Quadrangle, 7.5' Series, Jersey City, N. J. - N.Y.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

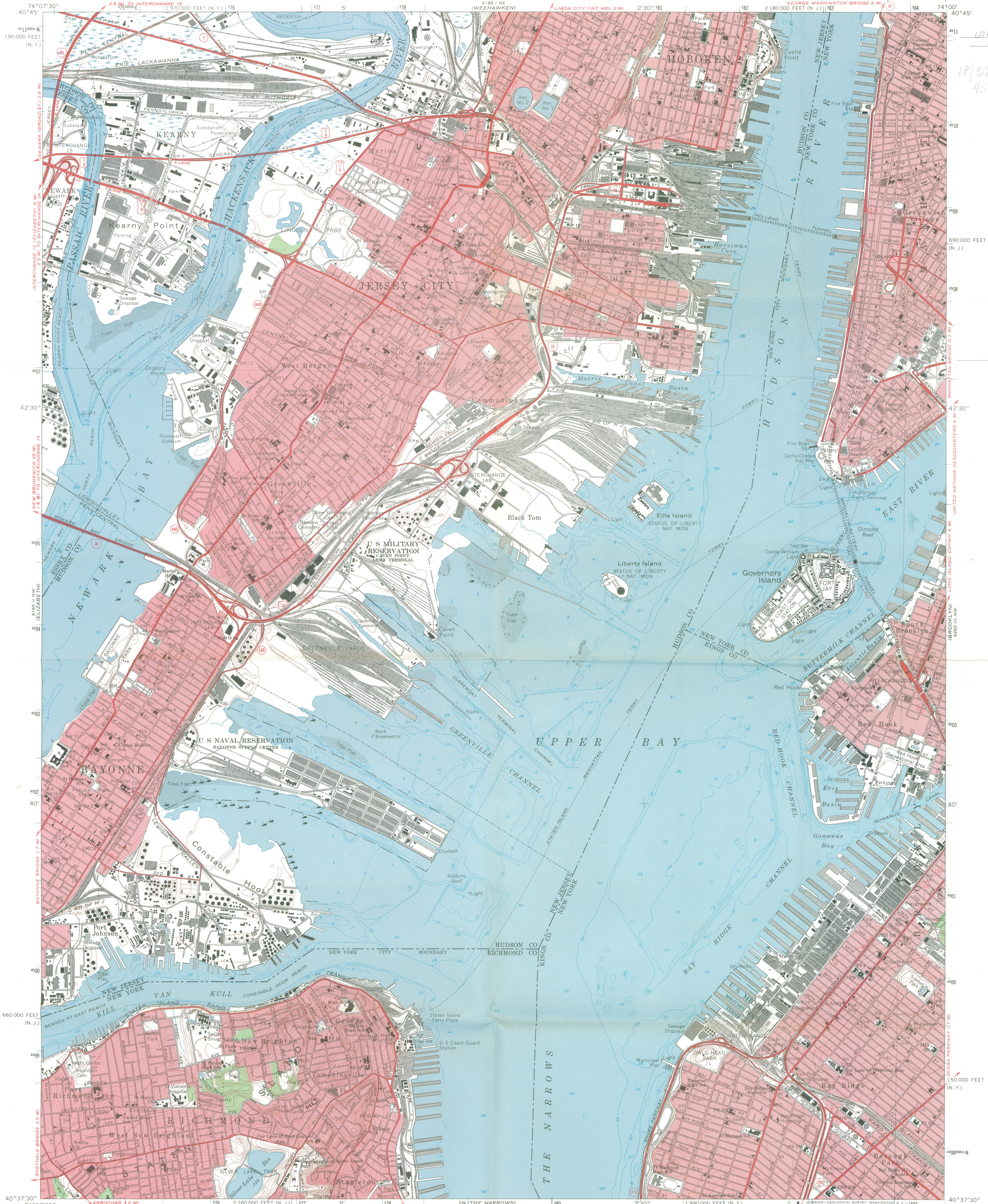


PH0030741

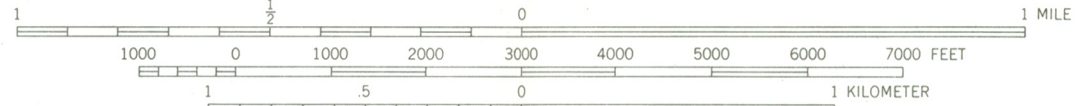


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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



Maped, 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



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

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