

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 15 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 27 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Hotel Chelsea

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

222 West 23rd Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20th

STATE

New York

— VICINITY OF

CODE

36

COUNTY

New York

CODE

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Hotel Chelsea

STREET & NUMBER

222 West 23rd Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New York County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New York City Landmark Preservation Commission

DATE

March 15, 1966

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

NYC Landmark Preservation Commission, 305 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chelsea is an eleven story, twenty-five bay, brick hotel located on the south side of West 23rd Street, a main crosstown thoroughfare. The facade is arranged in five parts with engaged towers in the center and on either end, the former being slightly higher and having a pyramidal roof with a massive chimney attached to its northeast corner; the latter are topped with brick gables within which each has a large tri-partite pointed arch window. Six other large chimneys emerge from a slate roof which is punctuated by two large dormers over each of the two recessed portions of the facade. A notable architectural feature is the succession of floral design, iron balconies from the second through the eighth story. The balconies run across the entire facade and are accessible from the apartments through French doors. The main entrance, with Gothic style detailing has remained unaltered, although several street level storefronts have had some modernization.

Over the years some alterations have been made to meet safety codes, but many of the apartments retain their original decorative woodwork and high ceilings. The fireplace in the main lobby still has its elaborately carved, wooden chimney piece, and the ornate iron railing of the main staircase is still intact.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☒ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1884	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Hubert, Pirsson & Co.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chelsea Hotel, designed and built by Hubert, Pirsson and Company in 1884, has been used as a hotel since 1905. The hotel is one of New York's most famous landmarks because it was frequented by numerous writers and artists. Over the years the residential roster has carried the names of Mark Twain, Sarah Bernhardt, O. Henry, Arthur B. Davies, James T. Farrell, Robert Flaherty, John Sloan, Eugene O'Neill, Thomas Wolfe, Brendan Behan, Edgar Lee Masters, Dylan Thomas and Arthur Miller. At the Chelsea, William Burroughs wrote Naked Lunch and Virgil Thomson created Lord Bryon, his first American Opera. Edgar Lee Masters dedicated an unpublished poem to the Chelsea and the hotel appears as a haven of refuge from atomic bombs for the hero of Stuart Cloetes novelette, The Blast. In Brendon Behan's New York several pages are devoted to experiences in the Chelsea and its environs. Among the movies filmed on the site was Andy Warhol's "The Chelsea Girls" in 1968.

The Chelsea survives as one of the great late nineteenth century apartment houses in New York. Philip G. Hubert, the chief designing partner, became famous as the originator of the co-operative apartment house in this country and for the introduction of fireproofing techniques in the construction. The florid, cast-iron balconies were made by the firm of J.B. and J.M. Cornell.

The Chelsea was among the earliest buildings to be designated a New York City landmark. This distinction was conferred on it because of its notable architectural features and because of its significance as part of the development of the literary and artistic heritage of the city.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.
Research files.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 58,49,25 45,1,05,0,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

New York City Block 772, Lot 64

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lawrence E. Gobrecht, Historic Preservation Program Assistant

ORGANIZATION NYS Office of Parks & Recreation

DATE

Historic Preservation Field Services

April 20, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza

518-474-0479

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Albany

New York 12238

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL XXX

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

DATE

6/2/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Relling

DATE

12/27/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles H. Hume

DATE

10-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Hotel Chelsea

77000958

New York

State

N. Y.

Working Number

6.15.77.948

TECHNICAL

Photos

4

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 6.15.77

HISTORIAN

Would be nice - but probably not necessary - to have one

Accept

10-11-77

Shapiro

good, concise information

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN,

Accept 9/27/77 J. Gilmore

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Lebowich

12/19/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Hung

12.22.77

KEEPER

Rettig for Murtagh
12/27/77

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry

2.7.78

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

DEC 27 1977

INT:2106-74



Hotel Chelsea
New York, NY County

JUN 15 1977

Photo credit: L. Gobrecht - 2/77
Neg. filed: NYS Office of Parks
and Recreation, Albany, NY

North facade.

DEC 27 1977

#1 84

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Hotel Chelsea
New York, NY County

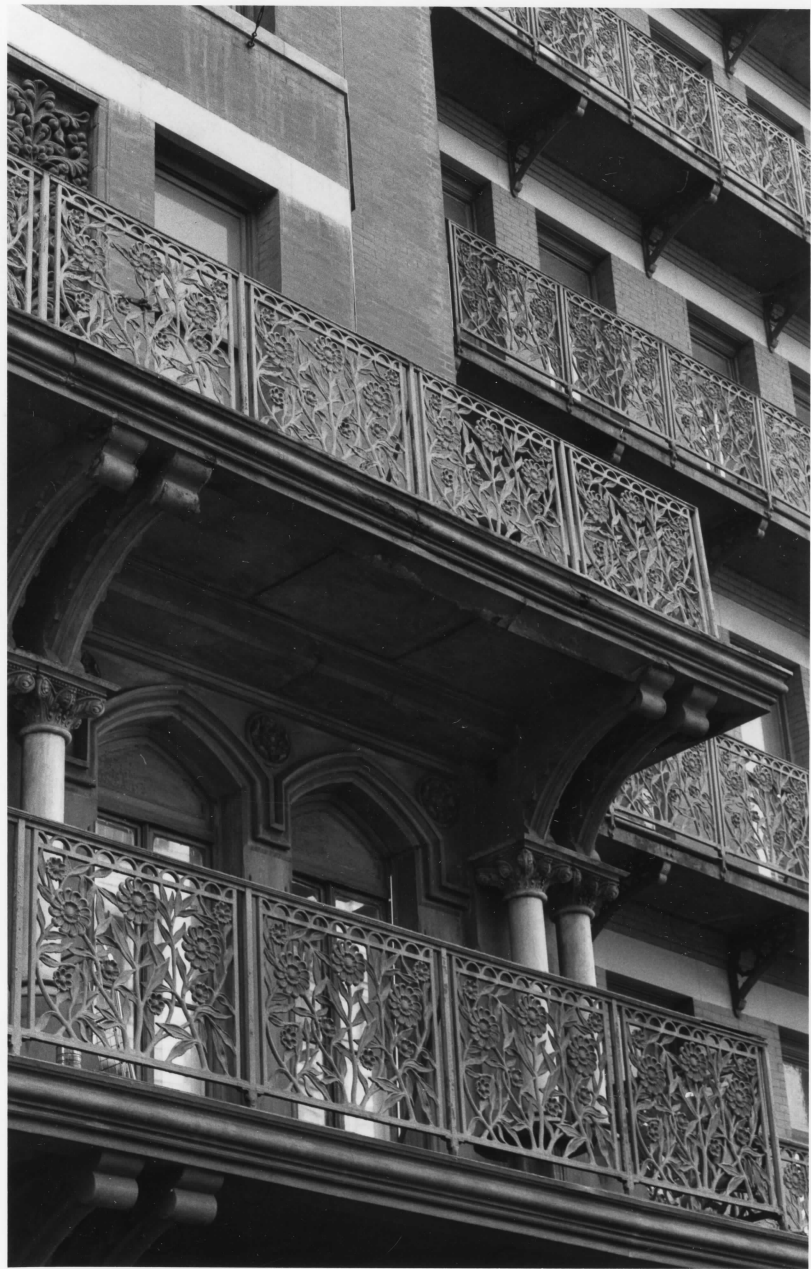
DEC 27 1977

Photo credit: L. Gobrecht - 2/77
Neg. filed: NYS Office of Parks
and Recreation, Albany, NY

Detail main entrance. JUN 15 1977

#2 of 4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Hotel Chelsea
New York, NY County

JUN 15 1977

Photo credit: L. Gobrecht - 2/77
Neg. filed: NYS Office of Parks
And Recreation, Albany, NY

DEC 27 1977

Detail, iron balconies on facade.

#3

g4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Hotel Chelsea

New York, NY County **JUN 15 1977**

Photo credit: L. Gobrecht - 2/77
Neg. filed: NYS Office of Parks
and Recreation, Albany, NY

DEC 27 1977

Detail, upper portion of facade.

#4

084

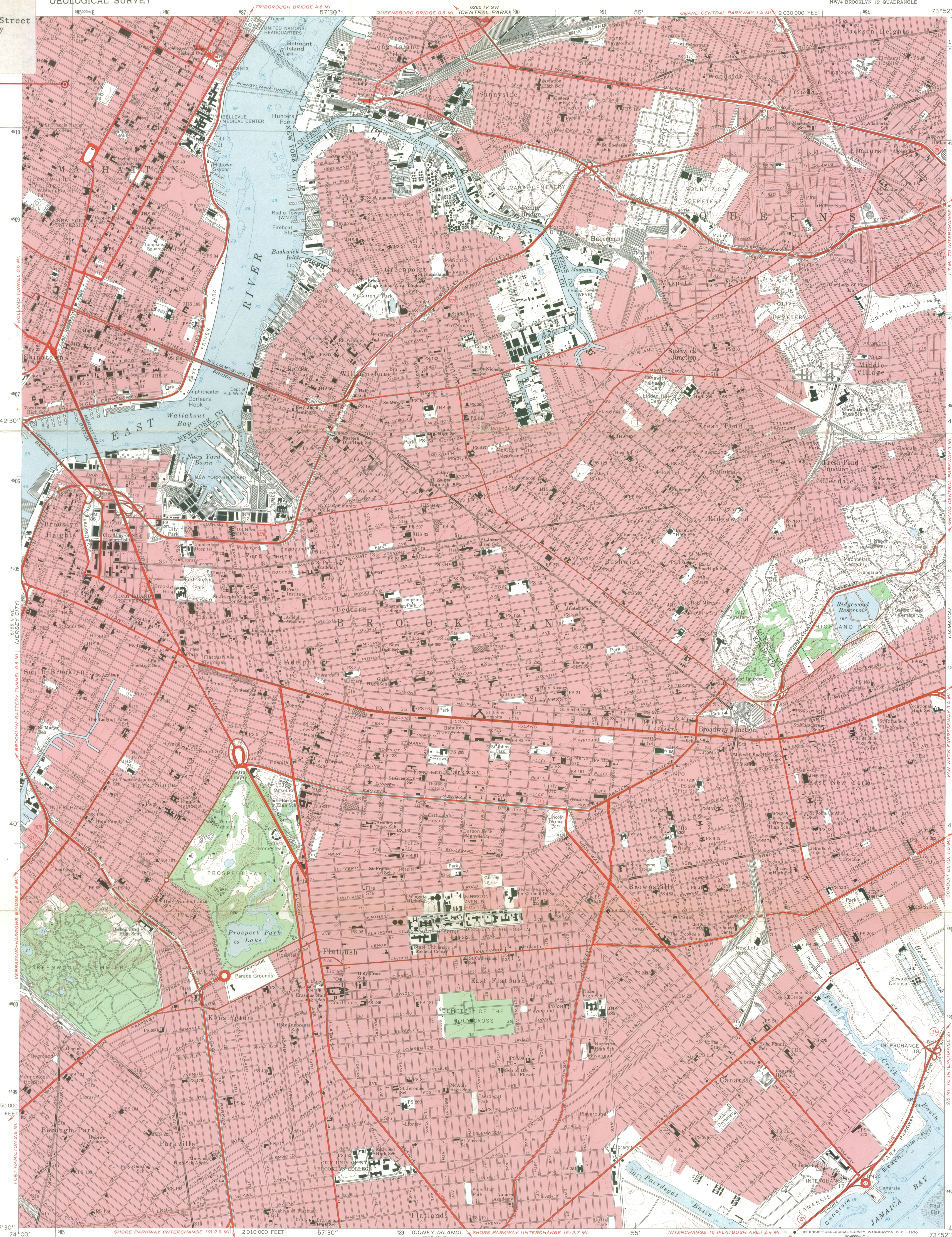
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BROOKLYN QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE

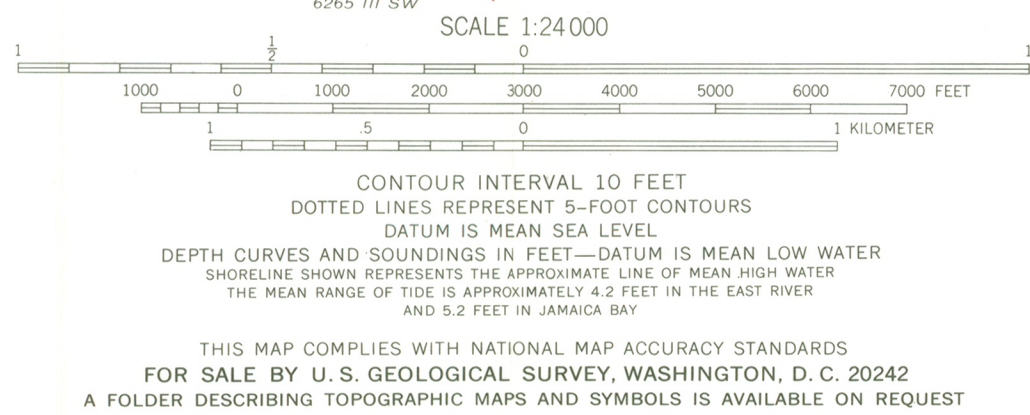
Hotel Chelsea
222 West 23rd Street
New York County

E 584 925
N 4510 500

688 150
(FLUSHING)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of New York Board of
Estimate and Apportionment
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1954, and from USC&GS Charts T-5094, T-5335, T-5454
T-5459, T-5460, and T-8449
Topography by planimetric surveys 1955-1956. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts
275 (1964), 542 (1967), and 745 (1966). This information
is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, Long Island zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Entire area lies within New York City



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



BROOKLYN, N.Y.
NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4037.5-W7352.5
1967
AMS 6265 III NW-SERIES 1921



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered DEC 27 1977

Name

Location

Hotel Chelsea

**New York
New York County**

Also Notified

Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan

Hon. Jacob K. Javits

Hon. Ted Weiss

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner, Parks and Recreation
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238**

880

Mott/js

12/29/77

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Hotel Chelsea				2 OTHER NAMES:				3 date of entry: DEC 27 1977		4 county code: 61	
5 LOCATION street & number 222 W. 23rd St.		city / town New York		vicinity of		state NY	county New York		6 NPS REGION: NA		
7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)								8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 20th		12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL		if state who prepared form?			
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				15 ACREAGE		☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ fair ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated				☐ altered ☐ original site ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ excavated				17 features: INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9			
18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown				19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no			
22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5				☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10				☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20			
23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				25 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐			
26 architectural style(s):				27 architect:		28 master builder:		29 engineer:			
30 landscape architect / garden designer:		31 interior decorator:		32 artist:		33 artisan:		34 builder / contractor:			
35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:											
36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP											