

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 10 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 16 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

Old New York Evening Post Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

20 Vesey Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

19th

STATE

New York

CODE
36

COUNTY

New York

CODE

61

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 ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vesey Realty Company

STREET & NUMBER

20 Vesey 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 Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE

November 23, 1965

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Landmarks Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

305 Broadway, 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 Old New York Post Building is a three bay, thirteen story commercial structure sited across from St. Paul's churchyard in Lower Manhattan. The steel frame structure has a stone clad facade, and side and back walls constructed of brick. The three distinct bays of the facade emphasize the structure's verticality while decorative stonework forms horizontal bonds at each floor level. The four uppermost stories manifest a complex of ornamentation highlighted by four sculptured figures in niches flanking each bay. Cast iron railings with repeated "EP" monograms are attached to narrow balconies within each bay at the eleventh story level. Each of the three bays is capped with a large dormer emerging from the copper clad mansard roof line.

The street level facade, the lobby, and the office arrangements have had some later alteration and modernization, but much of the structure's interior has remained unaltered.

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 1906 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Kohn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1906 as a new publishing office for the famous New York Evening Post, this thirteen story structure is an unusual architectural expression of the Germanic or geometric phase of the Art Nouveau style. Designed by Robert Kohn and ornamented with two sculptures created by the German realist sculptor Gutzon Borglum and two others by Estelle Rombold Kohn, the Post building represents a foreshadowing of the predominant Art Deco taste of the nineteenth-twenties.

The historian Allan Nevins evaluates the New York Evening Post as "one of the world's greatest newspapers,...one which has been important to the whole course of metropolitan journalism in America since 1800, and [also] upon some important parts of local and national history."¹

The editorials of the Evening Post reflected the progressive ideas of its writers, proposing social and cultural advancements which eventually became a part of the fabric of this city. Ideas were initiated through Post editorials for a park in a central location, an art museum metropolitan in nature, a public library in addition to the already existing private ones, and multiple-unit housing prior to the advent of the apartment house dwelling.

"The Evening Post, in its century-long history, united three strong traditions. First, the traditions clustering about its founder, Alexander Hamilton; second, the traditions created during the long editorship of William Cullen Bryant,...and finally the tradition of fighting Manchester liberalism embodied in the trenchant work of Edwin Lawrence Godkin, editor of the New York Nation... The career of a newspaper conducted by such strong and aggressive journalists was certain to be stormy..."²

¹Allan Nevins, The New York Evening Post: A Century of Journalism (New York: Russell and Russell, 1950), first page of preface.

²Ibid. first page of introduction.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Neivins, Allan. The Evening Post: A Century of Journalism.
See continuation sheet No. 1. Sell, 1950.

The New York Times. "Building 13-Story Plant" June 18, 1906.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 583620 45107040
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Larry Gobrecht, Historic Preservation Program Assistant

ORGANIZATION NYS Office of Parks & Recreation

DATE

Historic Preservation Field Services

January 12, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Empire State Plaza, Agency Bldg. #1

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

STATE

LOCAL XXX

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

2/24/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/16/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-15-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Old New York Evening Post Building, NY, NY County

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE 2

During the early part of the First World War, internal divisions at 20 Vesey Street threatened the paper with total destruction. The editor was Rollo Ogden and the owner was Oswald Garrison Villard, son of Henry Villard, and grandson of William Lloyd Garrison. Villard was a pacifist, taking editorial positions that were highly unpopular in the United States. Ogden resigned, taking an editorial position with The New York Times.

As a result, "The financial position of the Evening Post became increasingly precarious; the staff, restive and unhappy, began to break up and seek other positions, and the daily lost nearly all its influence... [It was] finally rescued by Thomas Lamont of the house of J.P. Morgan..., but by 1918 its great days were over. It was essentially of of the casualties of the war."³

At the time the Evening Post was planning the new facility at 20 Vesey Street, The New York Times noted that "The plans prepared by Robert D. Kohn, the architect, are the result of a study of newspaper buildings in the principal cities between St. Louis and the Atlantic Coast."⁴ Describing the building, the article informs us that there were fifteen stories in the building. The two basement levels below the street, the four topmost stories, and one third of the ground floor were reserved for its own use.

An obituary notice in the Michigan Society of Architects Bulletin of July 1953 stated that Robert D. Kohn, architect of the Evening Post building, died at the age of 83. He had just been elected to the National Academy of design. Kohn had practiced in New York since 1895 and was architect for R.H. Macy's department store, and the Temple-Emanuel buildings, both done in collaboration with Charles Butler and another of his partners, Clarence S. Stein. The Board of Design, New York World's Fair (1930), and the Division of Housing P.M.A. (1933-4), were also designed by him. Kohn was president of the American Institute of Architects from 1930 to 1932. He was also president of the Society of Ethical Culture and was architect of the building at 2 West 64th Street in which their Sunday school meetings are held.

³Ibid. second page of introduction.

⁴The New York Times June 18, 1906.

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Old New York Evening Post Building, NY, NY County

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER #9 PAGE 1

Michigan Society of Architects. Monthly Bulletin,
Vol. XXVII July 1953, p. 29.

Nevins, Allan. The Evening Post: A Century of Journalism.
New York: Russell and Russell, 1950.

The New York Times. "Building 13-Story Plant" June 18, 1906.

77000963

Property

Old New York Evening Post Building

State

New York

Working Number

3.10.77.403

New York

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 3.10.77

Confusing, sketchy history. Too bad - NY Post
deserves better. But for architecture

HISTORIAN

accept
LB Franklin
5.10.77

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Lebovich
5.5.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Nice!

Accept
Cole
6/22/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
8.15.77

KEEPER

Accept
8/16/77

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

AUG 16 1977

Federal Register Entry

9-6-77

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Old New York Evening Post Building
New York, New York County

AUG 16 1977

Photo credit: E. Ralph - 1976
Neg. filed: NYS Office of Parks and
Recreation, Albany, NY

MAR 10 1977

View from SW.

#1 of 2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

7



Old New York Evening Post Building
New York, New York County

Photo credit: E. Ralph - 1976

AUG 16 1977

Neg. filed: NYS Office of Parks and
Recreation, Albany, NY

MAR 10 1977

Detail, upper level - view from South.

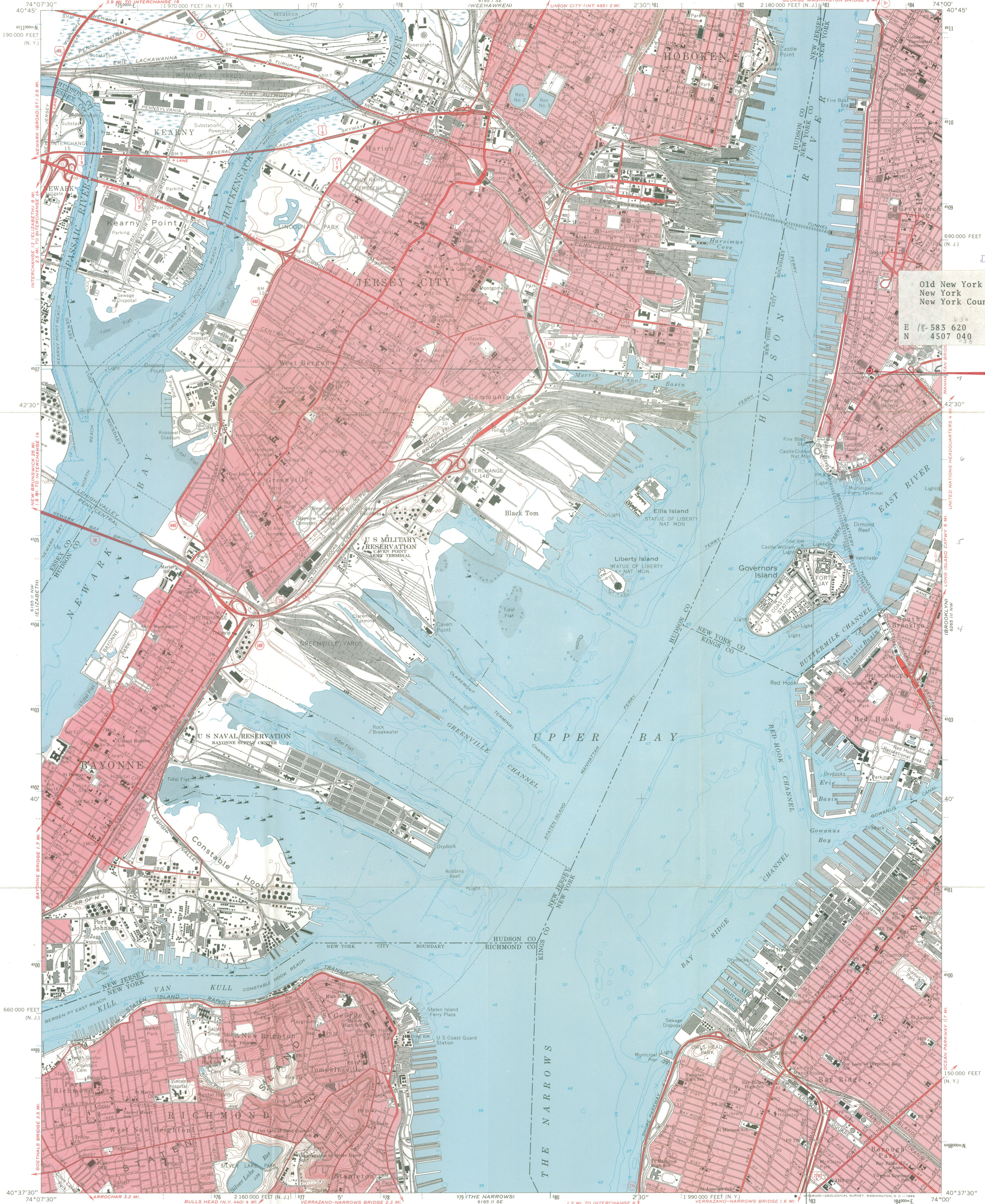
#2 of 2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

9

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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



0541

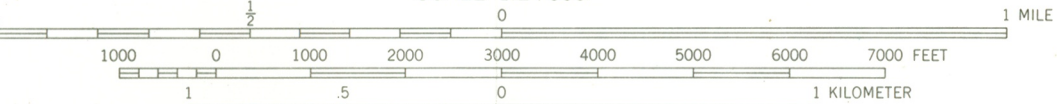
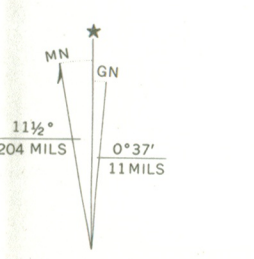
1988

DOE-AUG 16 1977

Old New York Post Building
New York
New York County

E 18-583 620
N 4507 040

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.

N4037.5-W7400/7.5

1967

AMS 6165 II NE-SERIES V82



2

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered AUG 16 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
U. S. Post Office	Ogdensburg St. Lawrence County
Old New York Evening Post Building	New York New York County
Gridley, John, House	Syracuse Onondaga County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan
Hon. Robert C. McEwen
Hon. Charles B. Rangel
Hon. James M. Hanley
Mr. Guy D. Alder, MAI, U.S. Postal
Service

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

Regional Director,
North Atlantic Region

880 Mott 8/18/77

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5 May 77
Reviewer: Rehovich INITIALS: DOE
NR
AUG 16 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Old New York Evening Post Building

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 20 Vesey ST.

CITY, TOWN New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 19th

STATE New York 36

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code
New York 61

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-1
- ☐ unknown - 4
- ☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-2
- ☐ unknown - 5
- ☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

- ☐ Substantially intact-3
- ☐ unknown - 6
- ☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

- ☒ EXCELLENT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ FAIR

- ☐ DETERIORATED
- ☐ RUINS
- ☐ UNEXPOSED
- ☐ Unexcavated

- ☐ UNALTERED
- ☐ ALTERED
- ☐ Reconstructed
- ☐ Excavated

- ☐ ORIGINAL SITE
- ☐ MOVED
- ☐ Unknown

ACCESS -

☒ Yes-restricted

☐ Yes-unrestricted

☐ No access

☐ Unknown

historic district?

YES

☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

☒ NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

☒ NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

☒ YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then-

commercial

now-

commercial

SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☒ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW/Gov't/politics

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

☐ planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Eclectic*

architect/m.builder: Robert Kohn

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan: Gutzon Borglum and Estelle

interior decorator:

Rombold Kohn

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1906

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) *less than 1*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

*Stone facade, brick walls, 13 stories, rectangular, upper facade slanted,
four sculptures below slant*

3 Bow Bays flanked by flat piers

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

*Only 20th eclectic architecture, associated with important
newspaper*