DATA SHEET

10-300 (Rev. 10-74) PHO503444 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR APPENDENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

New York

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 3 1 1977

New York

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TITLE Landmarks Preservation Commiss LP-0288.	ion Designation	Report, "The	Apthorp Apartments,"
September 9, 1969	FEDERA	L _STATE _COUNTY	<b>X</b> _LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Landmarks Preservation	Commission		
CITY, TOWN		ST	TATE



#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

\_EXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_UNALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Apthorp Apartments, designed by Clinton & Russell and erected in 1908, is located at 2201-19 Broadway. The building occupies the square block between West 78th and 79th Streets and Broadway and West End Avenue on the upper west side of Manhattan.

The formal elements of the Renaissance palazzo have been adapted in the design of this imposing twelve story edifice. Decorative band courses divide the facades into the traditional three horizontal segments. Entrance arches, which rise three stories and dominate both the Broadway and West End Avenue facades, are surrounded by the three-story rusticated limestone base. The arches are enriched with fine bas-relief winged female figures in the spandrels and a hooded head on the keystone. Flanking the arches are paired Corinthian pilasters which terminate with sculptured female figures at the fourth floor level. Elegant wrought iron entrance gates are surmounted by filigree ornamentation which incorporates the name "Apthorp" in the design.

Above the rusticated base, seven stories of smooth limestone are bordered, at each corner, by wide vertical bands of rustication. Additional rustication rises above the base to the cornice--five bays wide at the center of the avenue facades with two narrower bands on the street facades. The two top floors are treated as a loggia with two-story pilasters set between arched windows, repeating the design elements of the entrance arches. Further enrichment of the facade can be found in the ornamental keystones, the arched pediments and horizontal lintels of the windows in the central sections of the main facades and in the rich ornamentation above the arches of the loggia at the top of the building.

The whole composition is terminated by a bold projecting cornice with copper cheneau at the roof line. On the roof, two pavillions with projecting end wings originally served as features of the roof garden in the summer and were used as sun parlors when they were glassed-in during the winter season.

The building surrounds a large court, reached from both avenues through the two entrance arches. Two fountains, set in an oval garden, are the focal points of the court. Doorways at each corner of the court serve as the entrances to the building. The doors and entrances are protected by decorative iron and glass canopies. The lobbies, containing the elevators and staircases, have walls of Caen stone and marble trim surrounds the doors.

The Apthorp Apartment house originally contained one hundred and four apartments: most stories were divided into ten apartments. Each of the original "suites" included a large foyer with a mosaic tile floor, six to twelve additional rooms and two or more baths. Various period styles were represented in the ornamentation of the interiors of the apartments: Louis XIV, Louis XV, Louis XVI, Francis I,

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

Elizabethan, Adam and Colonial. In fact a contemporary critic wrote:

In a single one of the larger apartments, as one passes from one room to another, not infrequently will be found a succession of different treatments, illustrative of the different periods.

Each apartment contained a large kitchen which was equipped with the most advanced appliances available, such as gas stoves as large as hotel ranges and refrigerators.

The first two stories of the building were divided into seven duplex apartments, several one-story flats, and situated in the two corners of the ground floor facing Broadway, were a drug store and a bank.

The twelfth story was intended to augment the space of the apartments below. Three guests rooms and baths, located at each corner of the building, had individual entrances from the elevator foyer and could be rented when needed by a tenant. Along the lengths of the corridors, extra servants' rooms and baths were connected by the service elevators and stairways to all the apartments. Two laundries with more than one hundred and fifty laundry tubs, two large rooms for ironing and drying yards were also located on this level. A generating plant, which supplied all the power, light, heat and refrigeration needed by the tenants, was installed beneath the central court.

In the 1930's and 1940's many apartments were divided in half, thus reducing the size of the apartments that had served as a model for luxury apartment design. Fifty-seven additional apartments were created from the original number and the servants' rooms and service areas on the twelfth floor were transformed into penthouse apartments. Original interior walls and decoration were not removed in the remodelling but new doorways were cut through the walls and new walls were constructed.

<sup>111</sup> The Apthorp, ' Architects' and Builders' Magazine, IX (September, 1908), 537.

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	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER			
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION			
<b>X</b> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)			

SPECIFIC DATES 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Clinton & Russell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A splendid early example of the presently ubiquitous type of urban residential structure, the Apthorp Apartments continues to convey to its neighborhood a significant aspect of the city's architectural and social history. For most New Yorkers today, the word apartment is nearly synonymous with home. But in 1908, when the Apthorp was designed by Clinton & Russell, the apartment-residence was a relatively new housing concept for middle and upper income families in the United States. Richard Morris Hunt introduced the apartment house from Paris, where he had been the first American to study architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Rutherford Stuyvesant commissioned Hunt, in 1869, to design the first apartment house in New York City, The Stuyvesant, at 142 East 18th Street. This and other early apartment buildings were designed with apartments that attempted, all on one level, to reproduce as closely as possible the amenities of the private house. Elevator, door and hall men were employed and efforts were made to assure the privacy of each tenant to overcome the prejudice against apartment-residences.<sup>2</sup>

In 1884 the well known Dakota, at 1 West 72nd Street, was erected on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Designed by Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, the building was the first of the great super-block apartments with a central drive-in courtyard, and was virtually without precedent. The Dakota was built fifteen years after the improvement of the Upper West Side was begun with the opening of Broadway, then called the Western Boulevard. The street followed the general direction of the old Bloomingdale Road and was paved to 79th Street by 1890 and to 106th Street by 1896.4 In 1879 a critic wrote:

At an expense unparalleled except in the lavish periods of imperial opulence the great west end plateau, extending from the Central Park to the North River, has been laid out and ornamented with a series of magnificent avenues not excelled by any other city in the world.<sup>5</sup>

But it was primarily the construction of the elevated railroad and the introduction of trolley lines in 1880 that made the section west of Central Park accessible and caused building operations to begin.

Steam transit has accomplished in a year what a decade would have failed to do without it. The admirable service on the elevated roads has shown with what comfort and facility a home in this vicinity can be reached,

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA  ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1  UTM REFERENCES	
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED JAN 8 0 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

and as these roads will be running through the west end this spring a decided movement has already begun, and building operations on an extensive scale have been commenced. . . . Visitors to the 'World Exhibition' in the Central Park, in 1888, will probably find the entire region, westward to the river, built up in a manner consistent with the surrounding public improvements. 6

One of the real estate companies that took advantage of the new accesibility of the upper west side was the Astor family company which had accumulated vast quantities of real estate in New York. They sponsored the construction of this building and a number of other buildings on the Upper West Side including the very similar Graham Court, at West 79th Street and Seventh Avenue, designed by Clinton & Russell. Following the lead of the Dakota on Central Park West, Graham Court was built with a large central courtyard. Tentrances to the building are located within the court at each corner.

The architects Charles W. Clinton (1838-1910) and William H. Russell (1854-1907) had established their partnership in 1894. Clinton, the senior partner, served his apprenticeship with Richard Upjohn and had been associated with Edward T. Potter before joining Russell. The latter began his career by studying with James Renwick. Their firm, prominently known in New York, designed many commercial buildings and such notable apartment houses as The Langham at 135 Central Park West, in 1905.

Three years later, in 1908, they designed The Apthorp for the Astor estate which had purchased the land now bounded by Broadway, West End Avenue, 78th and 79th Streets in 1878. This block had been the part of the old Charles Ward Apthorp farm that Apthorp, a wealthy lawyer, had conveyed to his daughter and her husband John C. Vandenheuval. Vandenheuval, built his country house on this site in 1792 and the Astor Estate had the house demolished in 1905.

Named for the original owner of the land, The Apthorp was constructed for the Astor family by John Downey<sup>10</sup> and closely followed the pattern established at Graham Court with a central court, drive-in entrance and other design elements from the Dakota. In addition, like the Dakota and Graham Court and the other west side apartments of this period, the architects chose one of the popular eclectic styles for the design of the Apthorp. Architectural eclecticism, which began soon after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago of 1893, and shortly swept the country, gave a wide range to the designers of the Upper West Side apartment houses. In addition to the Dakota, Graham Court and the Apthorp, other existing examples of this translation of Classical and Renaissance motifs to apartment house design in this

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

section of the city include: The Dorilton, The Ansonia, The Langhorn and The Kenilworth, imparting varieties of Eclectic taste to the neighborhood.

The Apthorp Apartments, unique in terms of the quality of its design and the amenities provided in its plan, stands as a significant example of the type of building that was instrumental in transforming the Upper West Side of Manhattan from an area of farmhouses to an elegant residential neighborhood.

Andrew Alpern, Apartments for the Affluent (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975), forward (by Harmon H. Goldstone).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 1.

3Alan Burnham, New York Landmarks (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1963), p. 152.

<sup>4</sup>Stephan Jenkins, <u>The Greatest Street in the World</u> (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. 1911), p. 276.

<sup>5</sup>Egbert L. Viele, "The West End Plateau of the City of New York (1879)," in The Iconography of Manhattan Island, by I.N. Philps Stokes (New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1926), V, p. 1969.

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7<sub>Burnham</sub>, p. 238.

8Stokes, VI, p. 48.

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10 Alpern, p. 52.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

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- Burnham, Alan. New York Landmarks. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1963.
- Jenkins, Stephen. The Greatest Street in the World. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1911.
- Stokes, I.N. Philps. The Iconography of Manhattan Island. New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1915-1928.

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#### LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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Apthorp Agailments
2201-19 Broadway, New York City,
New York County

Photo: John B. Bayley, 1969
Neg: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission
View across Broadway, to the North-

JAN 30 1978

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## LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

The Apthorp A partments
2201-19 Broadway, New York City, New

York County

Photo: Daniel Brunetto, 1977

Neg: New York City Landmarks Preservation

Commission

View of courtyard, to the east

JAN 30 1978

AUG 31 1977

NA



#### LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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The Apthorp A-partments

2201-19 Broadway, New York City, New

York County

Photo: Daniel Brunetto, 1977

Neg: New York City Landmarks Preservation

Commission

Fireplace, north west wing apartment

JAN 3 0 1978 AUG 3 1 1977

397



#### LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

Apthorp A partments
2201-19 Broadway, New York City,
New York County
Photo: Daniel Brunetto, 1977
Neg: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission
Fireplace, northeast wing apartment

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JAN 3 0 1978 AUG 3 1 1977



#### LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

The Apthorp A partments

2201-19 Broadway, New York City, New

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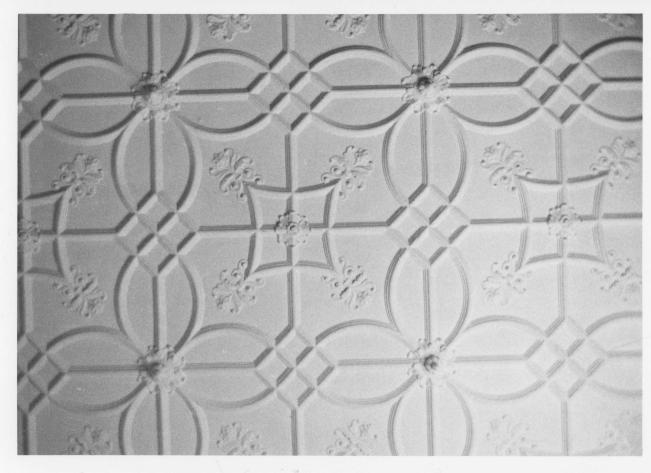
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Canopy, south-east corner of courtyard,

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The Apthorp Aportments

2201-19 Broadway, New York City, N.Y.

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Photo: Dan Brunetto, 1977

Neg: New York City Landmarks

Preservation Commission

Ceiling, south-east wing apartment

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The Apthorp Apartments

2201-19 Broadway, New York City, New York County

Photo: Daniel Brunetto, 1977

Neg: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

Entrance door, north-west corner of courtyard

JAN 3 0 1978 AUG 3 1 1977



#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered JAN 3 0 1978

Name

Location

Apthorp Apartments

South Washington Street "Parabolic" Bridge New York New York County

Binghamton Broome County

Also Notified

Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan

Hon. Jacob K. Javits

Hon. Ted Weiss

Hon. Matthew F. McHugh

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

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2/3/78

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

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