

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 23 1980

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  
Belnord Apartments

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER  
225 West 86th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
20CITY, TOWN  
New York

VICINITY OF

STATE  
New YorkCODE  
036COUNTY  
New YorkCODE  
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

Nathan Seril, et al.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

79 Worth Street

CITY, TOWN  
New York

VICINITY OF

STATE  
New York 10013**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New York County Register's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN  
New YorkSTATE  
New York 10007**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Landmarks Preservation Commission LP-0289

Has this property been  
determined eligible?☐ yes ☒ noDATE  
September 20, 1966☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Landmarks Preservation Commission - 305 Broadway

CITY, TOWN  
New YorkSTATE  
New York

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Belnord Apartments, designed by H. Hobart Weekes in 1908, occupies an entire city block between West 86th and 87th Streets and Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue and encloses a central courtyard.

The Belnord is thirteen stories tall and divided in the traditional manner of the Italian Renaissance style into three sections. The rusticated base is divided into two parts by a band course separating the smooth limestone of the first three stories from the brickwork of the fourth and fifth floors. The central section has seven floors, is also of brick, and has rusticated panels rising vertically at the corners of the building. Another band course divides the top floor from the middle section. The windows of the top floor are separated by decorated panels which emphasize the dentilled cornice which crowns the building.

Centered in the middle of the 86th Street facade are two massive grand archways, constructed of rusticated limestone and two stories in height. They serve as entrances to the inner courtyard for pedestrians and automobiles. The keystones of the archways are decorated with cartouches. The interiors of the archways are decorated with three bands of painted decoration and three hanging lanterns light each entranceway.

The inner courtyard contains a landscaped garden surrounded by a driveway that allows automobiles to turn around. An iron fence encloses the garden and 12 ornamental lamp posts provide lighting for the interior space. A fountain is located in the center of the garden, which is planted with mature flowering trees and shrubbery.

Six separate elevator lobbies are entered from the central courtyard. The use of this arrangement allowed the architect to avoid long, dark, public corridors within the building. It also allowed the larger apartments to have windows on both the interior courtyard and the exterior streets and avenues. Some apartments contained parlors, libraries, and dining rooms which ran the 50 feet from the interior court to the outside wall. Today, a few of the original apartments have been divided into smaller units but the majority still retain the original floor plan.



## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1908-1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT H. Hobart Weekes

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Belnord is an important early example of apartment house design. Occupying an entire city block and enclosing a spacious landscaped courtyard, this massive limestone and brick building was planned for gracious living and is one of several large projects built at the turn of the century which set the standard for luxury apartments in New York City.

Apartment house life is a relatively new concept for affluent New Yorkers, who preferred private residences to multiple dwellings prior to this century. The concept was imported by Richard Morris Hunt when he returned from Paris and his studies at the École des Beaux-Arts. In 1869 he designed the first apartment house for upper middle class tenants. Early apartment houses attempted to duplicate the amenities offered by private houses and often buildings provided only one apartment per floor. Unfortunately, early apartment house ventures met with little success as affluent New Yorkers associated apartment living with the common 19th-century workers' tenements. Not until this century, when the rapid urbanization of New York made private homes increasingly difficult for all but the most wealthy, did apartment living gain acceptability among upper middle class New Yorkers.

At the turn of the century several large apartment houses, including the Belnord, were constructed on the upper west side of Manhattan. The Belnord was similar in plan but larger than its cousin the Apthorp, which was constructed the same year. Both used a central courtyard plan to provide more sunlight, air, and a better view for more apartments. Though the Belnord's exterior facade is less ornamented than the Apthorp's, its grand interior courtyard is unsurpassed in providing its tenants with a sense of privacy and security within the walls of their own apartment house. A large formal garden was created in the center of the court, providing tenants with a private park away from the hectic noise and activity of the exterior streets. As separate elevator lobbies were reached through the courtyard, it provided a grand entrance for the building. The plans of the Belnord's apartments also demonstrate the luxurious design of the building. Typical apartments had 2 or 4 bedrooms with foyer, parlor, dining room and often a library, plus servants quarters. As interior public corridors were avoided by arranging apartments around separate elevator lobbies, larger apartments could span the 50 feet from the exterior facade to the interior courtyard. Few of the apartments have been altered or divided into smaller units.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A more complete bibliography may be found in the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission research file: The Belnord Apartments.

See continuation sheet.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES Central Park Quadrangle

Scale: 1:24000

A 18 586 400 451 554 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C                  

B                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D                  

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1234, Lot 19

See attached site map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY Bradley Frandsen, Research Consultant

NAME/TITLE Joan R. Olshansky, National Register Coordinator

Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph, 518-474-0479

ORGANIZATION  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE  
October, 1979

STREET & NUMBER  
305 Broadway

TELEPHONE  
(212) 566-7577

CITY OR TOWN  
New York

STATE  
New York 10007

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Stephen W. Bunch*

TITLE Director, Historic Preservation Field Services

DATE Bureau 2/21/80

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Bruce M. Driscoll*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE April 23, 1980

ATTEST: *Lynn B. Beebe*

DATE April 18, 1980

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

APR 28 1980

Belnord Apartments, New York County: N.Y.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Today, the Belnord continues to reflect the grand styling and spacious living area that characterized the early luxury apartment houses of New York.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Alpern, Andrew. Apartments for the Affluent. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975.

Goldberger, Paul. The City Observed: New York. New York: Random House, 1979.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Belnord Apartments Designation Report (LP-0289). New York: City of New York, 1966.

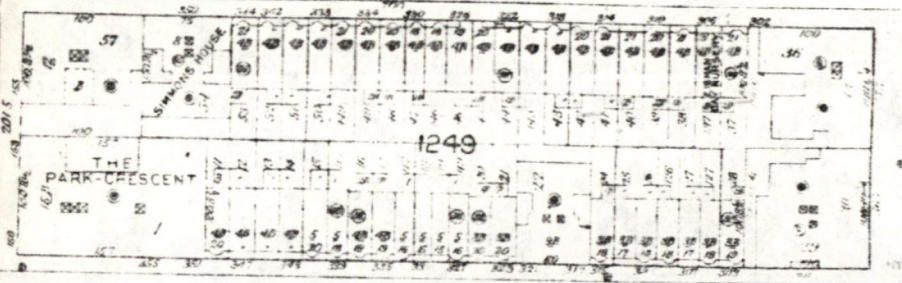


BELNORD APARTMENTS  
New York County, New York  
Manhattan Land Book, Plat 94  
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1970

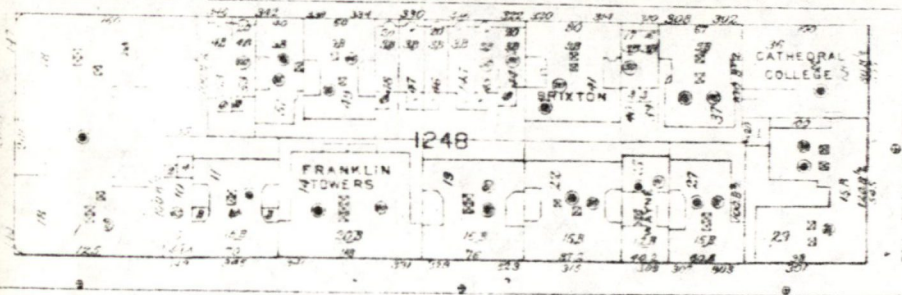
FEB 29 1980



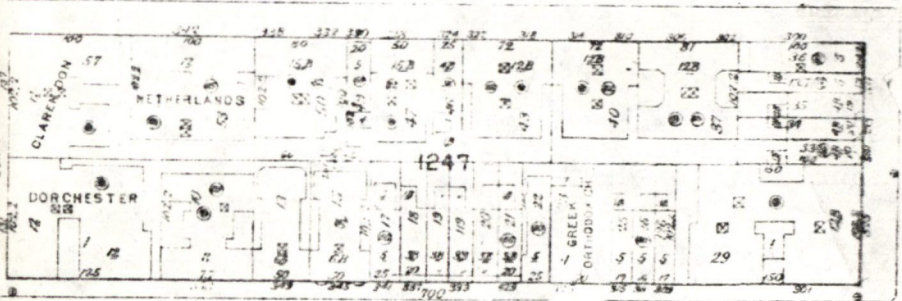
W. 88TH



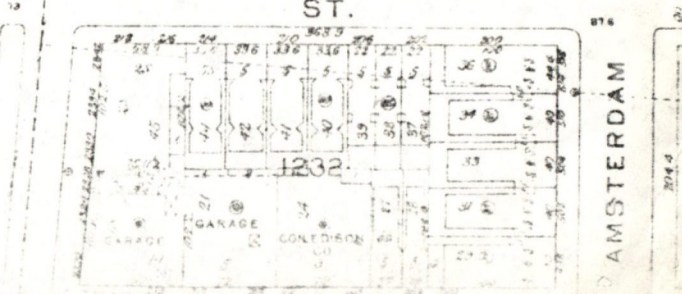
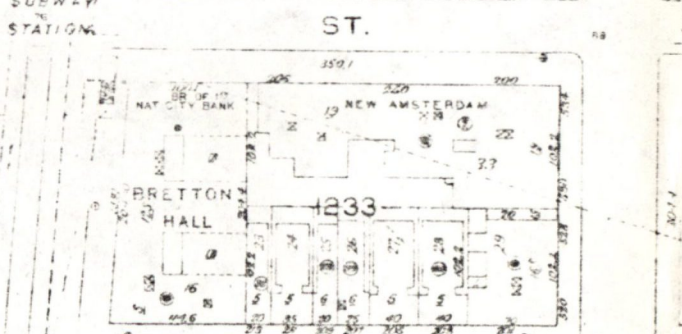
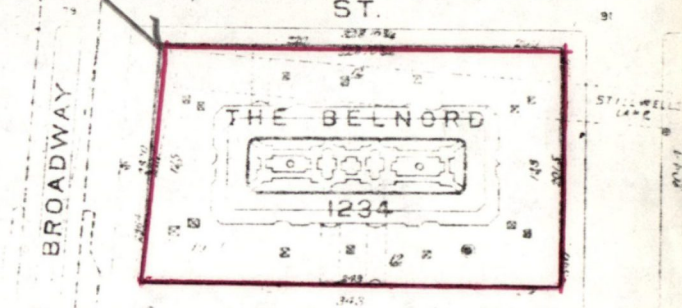
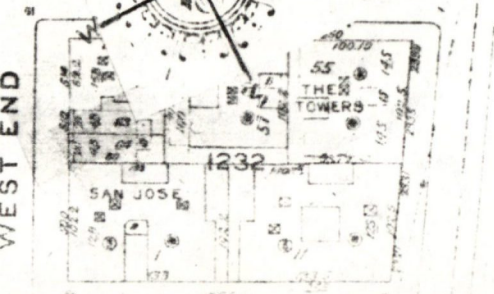
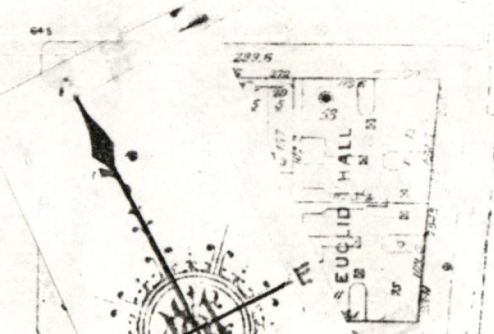
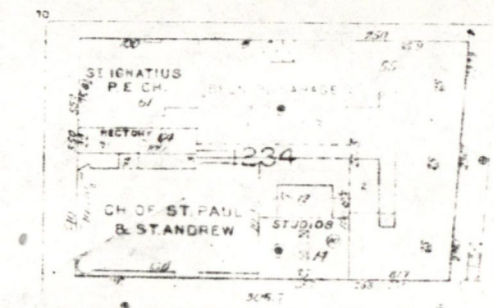
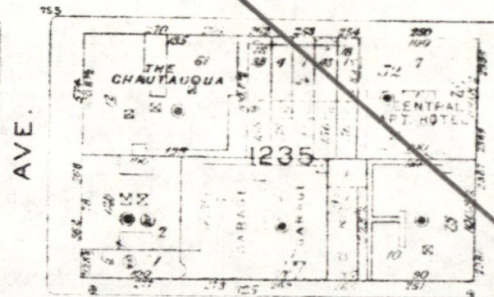
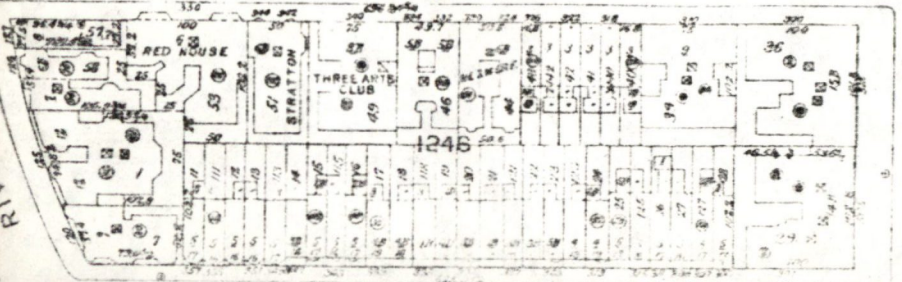
W. 87TH



W. 86TH

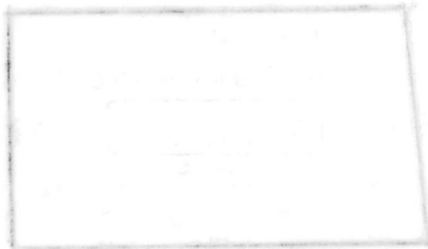


W. 85TH



FEB 23 1980

RECORD APARTMENTS  
New York County, New York  
Manhattan Land Book, First 94  
New York, Rand McNally Map Company, 1970



APR 23 1980



Property

*Belmont Apartments*

80002670

State

*NY - New York*

Working Number

*2-29-80 747*

## TECHNICAL

Photos

*3*

Maps

*2*

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

An example of turn-of-the-century luxury apt. houses in NYC — the Belmont exemplifies the use of the Italian Renaissance style in a large scale urban structure, and illustrates the design scheme/plan ~~illustrated~~ of luxury apt. bldgs. at the period when the concept was being developed.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept  
L. Beebe  
4/18/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept  
L. Beebe  
4/18/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

*APR 23 1980*

Federal Register Entry

*2.3.81*

Re-submit



Belnord Apartments  
New York County: New York

FEB 29 1980

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission

APR 23 1980

View of courtyard looking east.

#1 of 3





Belnord Apartments  
New York County: New York

APR 23 1980

FEB 29 1980

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission

View from southwest

#2 of 3





Belnord Apartments  
New York County: New York

FEB 29 1980

APR 23 1980

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission

View from south, entrance to courtyard

#3 of 3



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



CENTRAL PARK QUADRANGLE  
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 HARLEM 15 QUADRANGLE

6165 IV NW  
(MOUNT ERYON)



BELNORD APARTMENTS  
New York, New York  
UTM Reference:  
18/386400/4515540

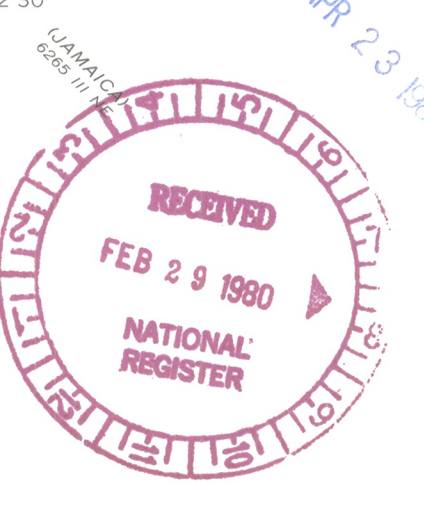
CENTRAL PARK Quad

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York  
Department of Transportation  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS Charts T-4567,  
T-5099, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5453, T-5458,  
and T-5778. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1954 and planimetric surveys 1956  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 226, 274, 745,  
746, and 747 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, Long Island zone,  
and New Jersey coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
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Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS Charts T-4567,  
T-5099, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5453, T-5458,  
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10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, Long Island zone,  
and New Jersey coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1977 and other source data. This information  
not field checked. Map edited 1979  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ——— State Route ———  
CENTRAL PARK, N.Y.-N.J.  
SW/4 HARLEM 15 QUADRANGLE  
N4045-W7352.5/7.5  
1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6265 IV SW-SERIES V821





ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE    NEW YORK

Date Entered    APR 23 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Balnord Apartments	New York New York County
Schinasi House	New York New York County
Ponckhockie Union Chapel	Kingston Ulster County
Addison Village Hall	Addison Steuben County
Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society	Buffalo Erie County
St. Jean Baptiste Church and Rectory	New York New York County
Bouwerie Lane Theater	New York New York County
Bowery Savings Bank	New York New York County
Chanin Building	New York New York County

Also Notified

Honorable Ted Weiss  
Honorable Hamilton Fish, Jr.  
Honorable Stanley N. Lundine  
Honorable Henry J. Nowak  
Honorable S. William Green

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered APR 23 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church	New York New York County
Moore-McMillen House	Staten Island Richmond County
Building at 85 Leonard Street	New York New York County
Reformed Church of Newton Complex	Elmhurst Queens County
New York, Westchester and Boston Railroad Administration Building	Bronx Bronx County
St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal Church and Rectory	Brooklyn Kings County
Hanson Place Seventh Day Adventist Church	Brooklyn Kings County
Union Theological Seminary	New York New York County
Bailey House	New York New York County

Also Notified

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan

Honorable Jacob K. Javits  
Honorable John M. Murphy  
Honorable Benjamin S. Rosenthal  
Honorable Mario Biaggi  
Honorable Frederick W. Richmond  
Honorable Charles B. Rangel

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

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

4/30/80

Byers/bjr

NR



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered APR 23 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Old Colony Club	New York New York County
Town Hall	New York New York County
Old Grolier Club	New York New York County
Public Baths	New York New York County

Also Notified

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.