

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received FEB 29 1980

date entered APR 23 1980

1. Name

historic Bowery Savings Bank

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 130 Bowery St. not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of _____ congressional district 18

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Bowery Savings Bank

street & number 110 East 42nd Street

city, town New York vicinity of _____ state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New York County Register's Office

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmarks Preservation Commission
Designation Report LP-0184

has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date April 19, 1966

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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 Bowery Savings Bank is a grand marble neo-Roman building designed by McKim, Mead & White in 1893. Its peculiar L-shaped plot gives it a double presence in two adjoining neighborhoods. The front on the Bowery is the major architectural presence on what is otherwise a dilapidated skid row; the Grand Street front is one of the finest in Little Italy, where it is surrounded for the most part by new-law tenements. The Bowery Savings Bank has maintained its building extremely well, and it remains almost entirely unaltered from its original appearance.

Because of the bank's location and development its plot had two peculiarities around which the architects had to base their design: it is L-shaped, composed of the original bank site on the Bowery and a newly purchased square plot at the corner of Grand and Elizabeth Streets, and it is irregular, as the area's streets all intersect at odd angles. The solution to the first problem was to treat the original plot as a grand entrance hall leading from the traditional Bowery entrance up to the new main banking space. Symbolizing this function, the Bowery front is designed as a Corinthian temple front enframing a triumphal arch. The temple front, approached by a flight of steps, is composed of a giant order of piers, with fretwork capitals and Corinthian columns, which support an architrave and pediment. A floral frieze in the architrave surrounds the words THE BOWERY SAVINGS BANK; within the pediment, which is capped with acroteria, is a sculpted group, by Frederick MacMonnies, of a male and female figure, each with a lion, reclining against a central clock. The triumphal entrance arch, with roundels in the spandrels and a console at the apex, opens into a coffered barrel vault; the actual entrance into the building is through two smaller doors.

The second problem was handled on the exterior by keeping the Grand and Elizabeth Street fronts from meeting at the corner, making clear, as Russell Sturgis wrote at the time, that they were applied facades rather than an expression of the building's structure, but also making the obtuse angle of the corner less apparent.¹ On the interior, the architects, using a neo-Classical device, created a "room within a room"² by inscribing a square composed of a giant order of marbleized Corinthian columns within the irregular trapezoidal space, creating the illusion of a regularly proportioned banking room. The Elizabeth Street front of the bank is composed of a giant order of Corinthian pilasters, corresponding exactly to the interior columns, supporting a plain architrave with an attic above topped with an antefix of anthemias. Each of the five bays contains a large aedicular window and a smaller window above. The Grand Street facade is the same, but with a temple front similar to that on the Bowery front superimposed over it, to frame the bank's secondary entrance.

All the windows and doors are covered with elaborate wrought-iron grilles. Both the Grand Street and Bowery fronts retain original fixtures connected with the bank: iron lamps affixed to the walls, bronze stanchions with the "Bowery" sign, and gilded notice signs sitting on the steps on Grand Street. The Bowery entrance still has its Roman style floor mosaics, matching those on the interior.

(See Continuation Sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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APR 23 1980

Bowery Savings Bank

CONTINUATION SHEET New York County ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Interior

Entrance hall: giant order of marbleized columns, with gilt Ionic capitals, framing hall -- Roman style floor mosaics -- paneled ceiling, with floral and fret moldings and gilded rosettes -- large wall panels, with fret and floral gilt molding, on which hang portraits of the bank presidents -- marble wainscotting,

Main banking room: giant order of marbleized Corinthian columns with gilded capitals forming square, matching pilasters behind them on the walls -- Ionic entrance porch from Grand Street -- Roman style floor mosaics -- aedicular windows formed by two Ionic pilasters supporting an architrave and pediment -- heavily ornamented "grotteschi" type molding on upper windows, some framing marble panels, others framing translucent panes -- high relief frieze of swags in heavily ornamental architrave above giant order -- coffered vault ceiling, containing elaborate skylight of circle within square, with floral molding.

¹Russell Sturgis, "The Works of McKim, Mead & White," Great American Architects Series, Nos. 1-6; May 1895-July 1899. The Architectural Record Co. (Reprint, New York: DaCapo Press, 1977), p. 103.

²Leland Roth, "The Urban Architecture of McKim, Mead & White" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Art History, Yale University, 1973), p. 484.

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/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates **1893**

Builder/Architect **McKim, Mead & White**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bowery Savings Bank, designed by Stanford White in 1893, was one of the very first neo-Roman buildings to follow the popularization of that style at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in the same year. Its sculptural groups were designed by Frederick MacMonnies¹, one of America's best late 19th century sculptors, whose reputation had just been made at the same Exposition. The bank, founded at this address, "is reputed to be the only bank in New York which retains a branch on the site where it first started business."²

The bank takes its name from the Bowery, the major thoroughfare of the neighborhood, which was in turn named for Peter Stuyvesant's "bouwerie" or farm. The bank is indirectly connected with what was once the area's major industry, for it was founded, and its site in part originally occupied, by the National Butchers' and Drovers' Bank, which served the cattle and butcher trades, "in New York's early days centered at the famous Bull's Head in the Bowery."³ The National Butchers' and Drovers' Bank had moved to 128 Bowery in 1831, but in 1835 bought the adjoining site of 124 Bowery, at the corner of Grand Street, and allowed the newly formed Bowery Bank to take over the plot. The Bowery acquired 130 Bowery, next door, in 1856, doubling the size of its plot, and adopting 130 as the address of the site which it has now occupied for nearly 150 years.⁴

The Bowery Savings Bank grew to be much larger than its founder, and by 1893 was said to have amassed "the greatest amount of assets, a total of about \$53,000,000, of any financial institution in the country!"⁵ The United States was entering a depression in that year, but the Bowery had the resources and the desire to meet its increasing business with "more suitable accommodations."⁶ In 1891, the bank's directors had acquired additional lots at the corner of Grand and Elizabeth Streets which backed onto their property, creating the present L-shaped plot, and in 1893 they demolished their building and hired the most prestigious architectural firm in New York, McKim, Mead & White, to design a new headquarters in the Roman style, which had just been triumphantly popularized by them and other Eastern architects at the Chicago Fair. They were also able to hire Frederick MacMonnies, whose reputation had just been secured at the same fair with his "Triumph of Columbia."⁷

The Roman style had appeared in New York as early as 1875 in George B. Post's Williamsburg Savings Bank in Brooklyn, but the Chicago Exposition created a tremendous fashion for it, which lasted for the next several decades. McKim, Mead & White, in their maturity, became closely identified with the new style -- one of their most famous and monumental such works being the old Pennsylvania Station in New York (1906-1910) -- but the Bowery Savings Bank was their first Roman building following the fair, designed in May of the same year.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Brooklyn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 584840 4507810
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Building occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 470; Lot 61 and is approximately 50' x 100' x 100' (see attached 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

name/title Anthony Wayne Robins, Landmarks Preservation Specialist Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph, 518-474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission, N.Y.C. date August, 1979

street & number 305 Broadway telephone (212) 566-7577

city or town New York state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Stephen White

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

date 2/21/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for *Bruce B. Dwyer*
Keeper of the National Register

date April 23, 1980

Attest: *Lynn A. Beebe*
Chief of Registration

date April 18, 1980

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Bowery Savings Bank
CONTINUATION SHEET New York County ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Frederick MacMonnies (1863-1937), who trained and spent most of his working life in Paris, was America's preeminent, if expatriate, Beaux-Arts sculptor. His other New York works include the sculpture on the Memorial Arch at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, the Horse Tamers in Prospect Park, the Truth and Beauty fountains at the New York Public Library at 42nd Street, and Nathan Hale at City Hall Park. His pediment sculpture for the Bowery Savings Bank was among his first commissions following his Chicago triumph.⁸

¹Leland Roth, "The Urban Architecture of McKim, Mead & White" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Art History, Yale University, 1973), p. 485.

²Landmarks Preservation Commission, Bowery Savings Bank Designation Report (LP-0184) (New York: City of New York, 1966).

³Moses King, King's Handbook of New York City (2nd edition, Boston: Moses King, 1893), p. 720.

⁴New York County, Register's Office, Liber Deeds 270, p. 295; 313, p. 487; 332, p. 149; 592, p. 264.

⁵King, p. 776.

⁶Ibid.

⁷"MacMonnies, Frederick," The Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art, p. 356.

⁸Ibid.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Bowery Savings Bank
CONTINUATION SHEET New York County ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

King, Moses. King's Handbook of New York City. 2d ed. Boston: Moses King, 1893.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Bowery Savings Bank Designation Report (LP-0184). New York: City of New York, 1966.

"MacMonnies, Frederick," The Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art, p. 356.

New York City. Department of Buildings. Plans, Permits and Dockets.

New York County. Register's Office. Liber Deeds and Mortgages.

Roth, Leland. "The Urban Architecture of McKim, Mead & White." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Art History, Yale University, 1973.

Sturgis, Russell. "The Works of McKim, Mead & White," Great American Architects Series, Nos. 1-6; May 1895-July 1899. The Architectural Record Co. Reprint. New York: DaCapo Press, 1977.

APR 23 1960

80002672

Property

Bowery Savings Bank

State

NY - New York

Working Number

2-29-80637

TECHNICAL

Photos 6Maps 2

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Intact example of turn of the century neoclassical revival drawn from Roman prototypes and ~~exposed~~ and expressive of ~~collective~~ qualities of monumentality and ornamentation which had been emanating from the Ecole des Beaux Arts during the second half of the 19th c. Designed at the time of the Chicago Exposition a peak in the expression & popularity of this style.

Accept
L. Beeke
4/18/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
L. Beeke
4/18/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back _____

Entered

APR 23 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit _____



1. Bowery Savings Bank

130 Bowery

New York, NY *County*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

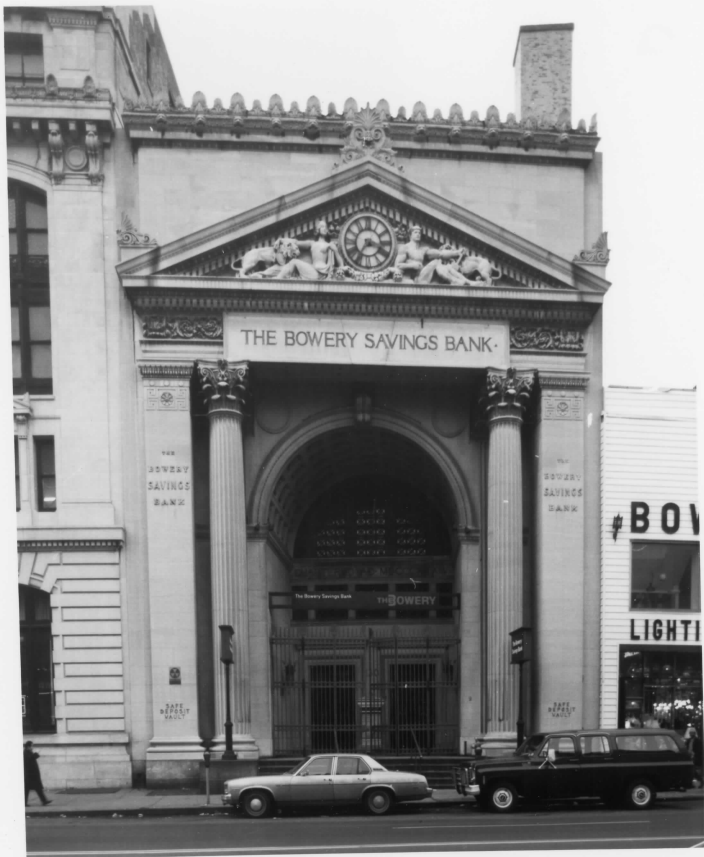
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

APR 23 1980

View of facade towards north

1086

FEB 29 1980



2. Bowery Savings Bank

130 Bowery

New York, NY *County*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

APR 23 1980

Bowery facade

FEB 29 1980

2076

2



3. Bowery Savings Bank

130 Bowery

New York, NY *County*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

APR 23 1980

Grand Street facade

FEB 29 1980

3076



4. Bowery Savings Bank

130 Bowery

New York, NY *County*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

FEB 29 1980

APR 23 1980

Detail of ornament on Grand Street facade

4 of 6



5. Bowery Savings Bank

130 Bowery

New York, NY *county*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

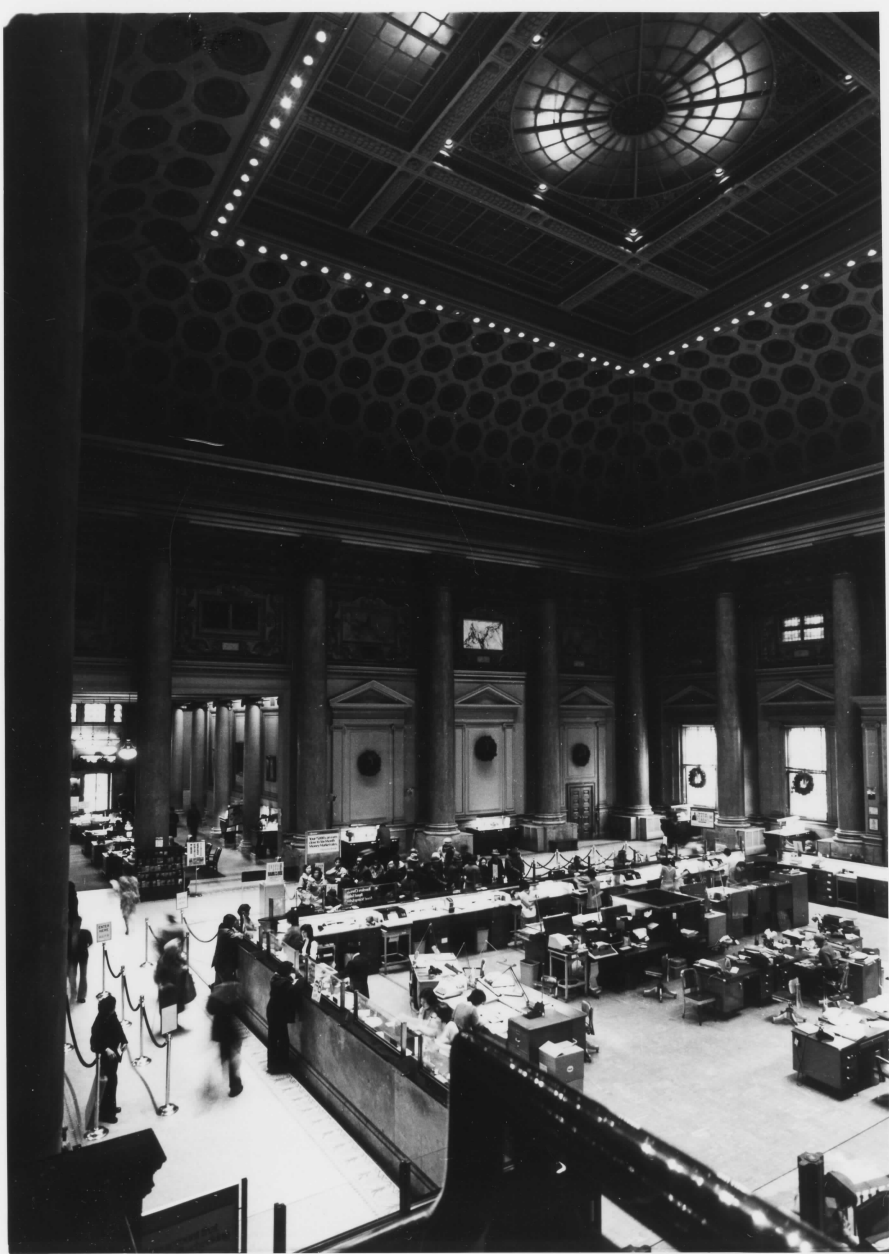
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

FEB 29 1980

Interior-Bowery branch

APR 23 1980

5 of 6



6. Bowery Savings Bank

APR 23 1980

130 Bowery

New York, NY *County*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

Interior-Grand Street branch

FEB 29 1980

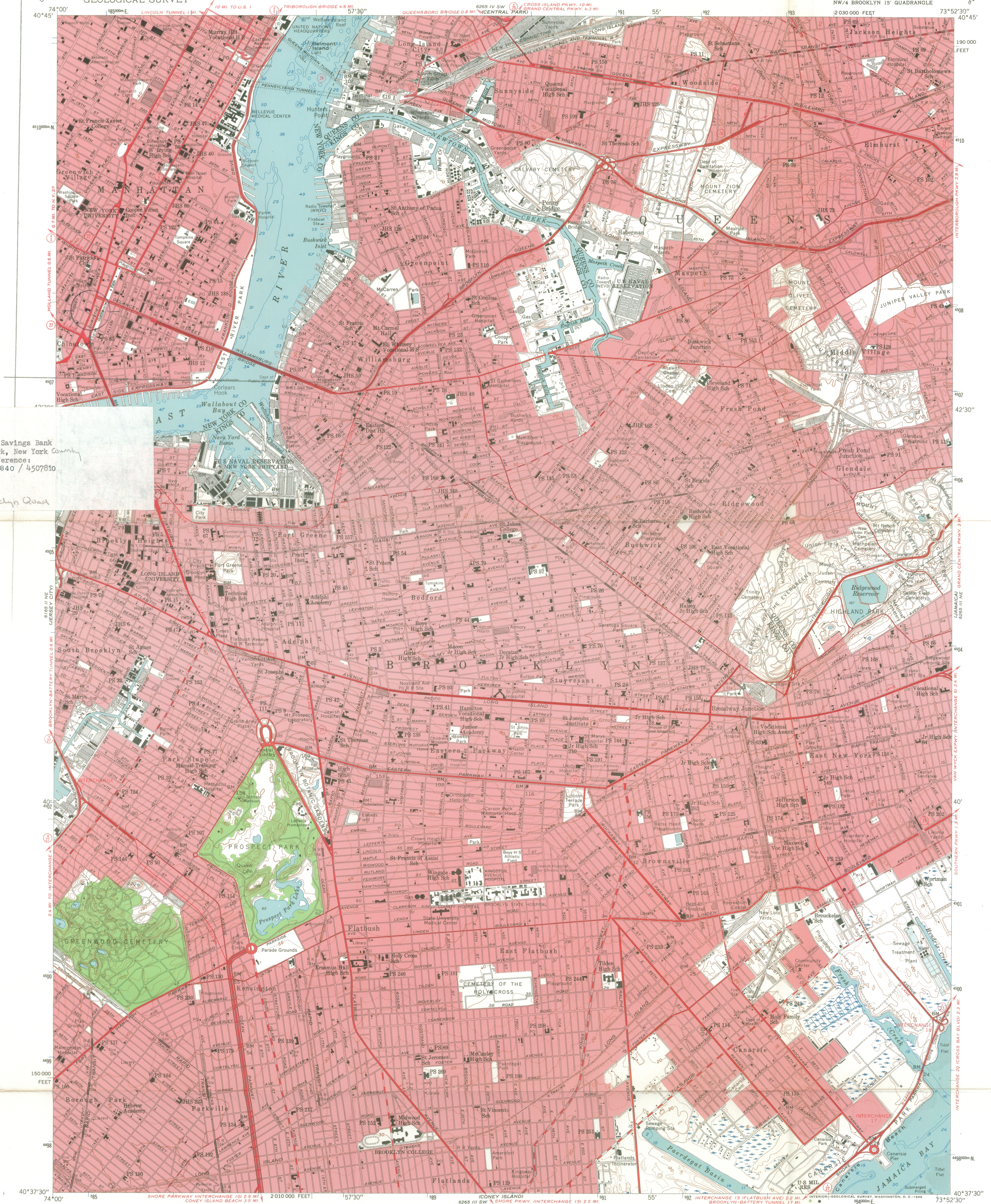
6086

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BROOKLYN QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
2030 000 FEET
73°52'30" W
40°45' N

Bowery Savings Bank
New York, New York County
UTM Reference:
18/ 504840 / 4507810

Brooklyn Quad



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS, USCE, and City of New York Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Culture and drainage in part compiled 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 planetable surveys 1955-1956

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 542 (1955) and 745 (1956)

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

SCALE 1:24,000

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 METERS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS

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 4.2 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER
AND 5.2 FEET IN JAMAICA BAY

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20542
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———

Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

State Route

NEW YORK

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4037.5-W7352.5/7.5

1956

AMS 6265 III NW-SERIES V821

RECEIVED

FEB 29 1960

NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered APR 23 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Belnord 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

Name

Location

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

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman

Honorable John M. Murphy

Commissioner

Honorable Benjamin S. Rosenthal

Parks and Recreation

Honorable Mario Biaggi

Agency Building #1

Honorable Frederick W. Richmond

Empire State Plaza

Honorable Charles B. Rangel

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 Grolfier 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.