

**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 JAN 29 1980

date entered MAR 28 1980

1. Name

historic Former Police Headquarters Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 240 Centre Street not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of congressional district 27/17

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
			☒ other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. James F. Capalino, Commissioner of General Services

street & number Municipal Building, Room 1800

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, Surrogates Court Building

city, town New York state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Landmarks Preservation Commission
title Designation Report LP-0999

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date September 26, 1978 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Landmarks 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

Designed by the architectural firm of Hoppin and Koen, the former New York City Police Headquarters building was built between 1905 and 1909 and stands today as one of New York City's most important examples of the Edwardian Baroque style and of the Beaux-Arts principles of design.¹

Sited like the traditional French hotel de ville within a confined urban space, the five-story granite and limestone Police Headquarters building with its five-part composition incorporates a rusticated arcade which supports two main stories linked by monumental Corinthian pilasters. The windows of the second story are capped with pedimented hoods and those of the third story are outlined by a crosset architrave. A two-story attic is set back from the main facade and rises like a clerestory above the modillioned cornice and roof balustrade. The main focus of the facade is the central portico where monumental Corinthian columns rest on a three-part rusticated arcade adorned with decorative iron grilles and sconces by Harris H. Uris Iron Works. The pediment is filled by an impressive bas-relief of the seal of New York City flanked by trailing rinceaux. Atop the gable sits an allegorical figure of Manhattan.

Although the rather flat surface of the main facade with its arcaded base and pedimented portico suggests a French classical approach to design, several important features are clearly interpreted in the Baroque manner. Two domed towers with narrow fenestration pierce the main cornice and tightly flank the central portico. Here caryatids and oils de boeuf are worked into the roofline composition. From the towers the eye is drawn to the crowning dome where cornices are pushed out by paired columns and pushed up by clocks set into oils de boeuf. The end pavilions with their broken-bed pediments and Gibbs window surrounds are surmounted with low domes gilded and panelled in the Austrian rococo manner.

The classical portico facing Grand Street echoes that of the main facade while the Broome Street elevation with its elaborate porte cochere is conceived in the Baroque manner. Here, rising above the vermiculated stone entranceway, a single round-arched bay thrusts its way up past Corinthian columns and through the bed of the pediment. The rear of the building along Centre Market Street is a flat, almost two dimensional, reiteration of the main facade.

The interiors of this building are, in general, much less ornate than the exterior. The only area which displays the same grandeur as the exterior is the two-story, main entrance hall, off Centre Street. Here, large-scale marble columns support a coffered ceiling. Each panel contains ornate foliate medallions from which chandeliers once hung. A grand staircase winds its way past colored glass windows on the second floor and through the full height of the building.

On the northern end of the building, on the second floor, is a suite of rooms which served as the Police Commissioner's office. The first room of this group is octagonal in shape and is panelled with small mirrors which form rounded-arch designs. The Commissioner's office itself is panelled in dark oak, with large fluted pilasters spaced along the walls. An elaborate marble fireplace with a bracketed wooden mantel is on one wall. Doors to outer offices are topped by segmentally arched pediments supported on brackets. This office also opens onto a large balcony over the porte cochere.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAR 28 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Former Police
Headquarters Building

CONTINUATION SHEET N.Y. County

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The Deputy Commissioner's office is on the floor directly above. A simple marble fireplace with wooden Greek Revival details around it is all that is left of the original design.

Also on the third floor was an elaborate courtroom with fluted pilasters and round-arched windows. Only parts of this room are still visible, as it was subdivided and covered with modern materials. How much of the original design is still intact is unclear at this time.

The rest of the building is functionally divided into rooms of various sizes and shapes, and its decor is of the most utilitarian type. Because the building has been vacant for a number of years, excessive vandalism has occurred and there is little left of the original interior fabric.

¹The text of this nomination form is taken almost in its entirety from Landmarks Preservation Commission, Former Police Headquarters Building Designation Report by Ruth Seldon-Sturgell (New York, 1978).

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 1905–1909 **Builder/Architect** Hoppin, Koen and Huntington

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Former Police Headquarters Building is one of New York City's most important examples of the Edwardian Baroque style of architecture and of Beaux-Arts principles of design. It was designed by the architectural firm of Hoppin and Koen to replace the headquarters building at 300 Mulberry Street on the site where the old Centre Market had stood since 1817. It incorporated a new, official image for the nation's largest and most sophisticated police force and today it is an important reminder of the police department's proud history.

On May 6, 1905, Mayor George B. McCellan, amid the ceremony of a police band and mounted troops, wielded a silver trowel to lay the cornerstone of the building which was hailed by the press as the most up-to-date of its kind in the world.¹ Since the establishment of the first police office at City Hall in 1798 when, "to facilitate the apprehension of criminals," an effort was made to supplement the traditional night watch,² the New York Police Department had witnessed the uneasy growth of the nation's largest city. Between the date of the installation at City Hall and that of the inauguration of the new headquarters, the population of the city had increased a remarkable fifty-six fold and this growth was to continue. The large numbers of people who flowed into the city during the 19th century reflected every walk of life, and municipal services struggled to keep abreast of their needs. However, the high density of population in itself created problems. Damaging riots during the 1830's prompted the passage of the Municipal Police Act of 1884 which abolished the antiquated watch system and established the police force as we know it today. Under this act the 17 wards of the city were divided into precincts complete with a station house, captain and a sergeant. Although formal training of the police was not established for another ten years, they were, at this time, furnished with a manual explaining their duties and legal powers. The modern notion of the "public servant," however, was not wholly acceptable to the newly established Municipal Police who refused to wear the proposed blue uniform which reminded them of a servant's livery.³ A star-shaped "copper" badge, which gave rise to the colloquial term for a policeman, worn over the left breast, served to identify the early force.

Over the next 57 years the numerous changes in the structure of the department reflect the rapid increase of crime in the growing city, and the authorities' attempts to keep pace with this development. Following an effort to enlarge the territorial responsibilities of the force and to initiate state control of the system, a bill was finally adopted in 1901 which gave a single commissioner of police full responsibility for administering the city's police organization.⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 584560 4507940
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 472, Lot 31. Bounded on the north by Broome Street; on the east by Centre Market Place; on the south by Grand Street and on the west by Centre Street.

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 Virginia Kurshan, Research Consultant for Edited by: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph
Joan R. Olshansky, National Register Coordinator 518-474-0479
Div. for Historic Preservation

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date August, 1979

street & number 305 Broadway telephone 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 X 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

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

date 1/9/80

For HCRS use only

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

for Bruce Mac Donald
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/28/80

Attest: Lynn D. Beebe

date March 24, 1980

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Former Police
Headquarters Building

CONTINUATION SHEET New York County ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Housing the growing Police Department was another problem. The first centralized headquarters for the department was situated in City Hall. In 1862 the Police Department built its own headquarters building at 300 Mulberry Street. A rather plain Italianate style building, "300 Mulberry" figured prominently in the city's history. Here the Detective Bureau originated the harsh line of questioning known as the "third degree," and here also politicians such as Ulysses S. Grant and Chester A. Arthur flocked to hear the results of the city's elections. However, by 1900 the Police Department had quadrupled in size, and larger, more modern quarters were clearly needed.

In 1903 the New York architectural firm of Francis L.V. Hoppin (1866-1941) and Terence A. Koen (1858-1923) produced a series of drawings for the new Police Headquarters; it was to be located on a wedge-shaped site, bounded by Grand, Centre Market Place, Centre and Broome Streets, where the old Centre Market had stood since 1817. In 1838 the market had been housed in an imposing Greek Revival building designed by Thomas Thomas, a founder of the American Institute of Architects. It is interesting to note that Thomas' design solution for this restricted site was a long rectangular mass with a blind arcade on the ground floor supporting trabeation above. The entrance of the market was marked by a central pavilion topped by a cupola and the ends were rendered in a temple form facing the side streets. Over half a century later Hoppin and Koen chose a design which was both a reflection of the earlier market building and of the most contemporary taste in civil architecture.

A graduate of Brown University, Francis L.V. Hoppin had studied architecture at M.I.T. and in Paris. Hoppin met Koen in the office of the prestigious architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White where they were both employed as draftsmen. When the two draftsmen set up their own firm in 1894, their work, like that of most contemporary architects, showed the strong influence of the French Ecole des Beaux-Arts which through its teaching stressed the use of classical tenets to achieve an architecture of balanced proportion and logical planning. McKim, Mead & White were the foremost promoters in the United States of the French approach, and the architects of the new Police Headquarters show a clear understanding of the system. However, Hoppin and Koen were also clearly attuned to the most current architectural tastes of England and the Continent. The final stages of work on the headquarters were supervised by architect and civil engineer Franklin B. Huntington who joined the firm during the building's construction. Huntington had previously worked for architect H.G. Thompson, and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. Huntington has been credited with the design of four police stations and 56 fire stations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1980

Former Police
Headquarters Building
New York County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

From 1889 to 1906 a new taste was developing in England and France for a version of classicism which was freer in spirit and grander in scale than the rather static Beaux-Arts design. In England prosperity initiated a building boom, and in 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee needed the endorsement of a new style to fit the occasion. Looking back patriotically to the English Baroque of Christopher Wren's Greenwich Hospital and the architects of the early 18th Century, English architects produced a "Wrenaissance" at the turn of the century. In contrast to the limited scale of the contemporary arts and crafts movement, the bold massing of the Baroque seemed especially suitable for the scale of flourishing municipal projects. As early as 1887, England's renowned architect Richard Norman Shaw had chosen a Scottish Baroque for the new police headquarters at Scotland Yard (1887-90), and Edward Mountford's Central Criminal Courts, Old Bailey (1900-1907) was a clear statement in the Edwardian Baroque. Several English architects who were especially eclectic, such as the firms of Lanchester and Richards and Mewes and Davis looked, in addition, to the Baroque of Austria and France. Architectural publications abounded during this period and architects were well travelled. Nothing escaped the knowledgeable eyes of American architects like Hoppin and Koen who kept pace with such developments. This awareness was an important factor in their design for the Police Headquarters building.

Spread out majestically along Centre Street, the main facade of the Police Headquarters building with its central pedimented pavilion topped by a dome and balanced by end pavilions of lesser importance, is a clear reflection of Beaux-Arts or Classical composition. Hoppin stated quite frankly that the building was not intended to look like a police station, but was inspired by the dignity of City Hall which Hoppin called "the handsomest building on Manhattan Island."⁵ The basic form, which in addition to a central pavilion with dome includes end porticos at the cross axis to the ridge of the main portico, is also similar to that of the old Centre Market. Hoppin and Koen were consciously adapting their building to the rich architectural history of the area.

Built during a period which produced such venerable establishments as New Scotland Yard and the Criminal Courts, Old Bailey, the Police Headquarters building, was designed to serve both a practical and symbolic end. Francis Hoppin stated clearly that the architect's intention was "to impress both officer and prisoner... with the majesty of the law."⁶ Borrowing inspiration from other public buildings like City Hall and from contemporary European design, the headquarters building incorporated a new, official image for the nation's largest and most sophisticated police force. As the architectural focus of the bustling community of Little Italy,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1980

Former Police
Headquarters Building
New York County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

the headquarters building plays a vital role in the area. However, as one of the finest municipal examples of Edwardian Baroque architecture in New York City, former Police Headquarters Building serves as an important reminder of the police department's proud history.

FOOTNOTE

¹Frank Marshall White, "The Finest Police Headquarters in the World," Harper's Weekly 53 (1909): 27.

²William Thompson Bonner, New York: The World's Metropolis (New York: R.L. Polk & Co., 1924), p. 215.

³I.N. Phelps Stokes, The Iconography of Manhattan Island V (New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1928), p. 1728.

⁴Stokes, p. 2043.

⁵New York Times, 27 January 1907, 3:6.

⁶Ibid.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAR 28 1980

Former Police
Headquarters Building
New York County

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bonner, William Thompson. New York: The World's Metropolis. New York: R.L. Polk & Co., Inc., 1924.

"Building for the New York Police Department Headquarters." Architects' and Builders' Magazine, New Series, 10 (January 1910), 123-129.

DeVoe, Thomas F. The Market Book. New York: Printed for the Author, 1862.

Journal of the American Institute of Architects, 11 (1923), 374-375.

King, Moses. Kings' Handbook of New York City. Boston: Moses King, 1892.

Kouwenhoven, John A. The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York. New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1953.

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Metropolitan Museum Historic District Designation Report, 1977. New York Times. Feb. 27, 1905; May 7, 1905; Jan. 27, 1907; Sept. 10, 1941; March 11, 1947.

Pencil Points, 22 supplement (Oct. 1941), 64.

Stokes, I.N. Phelps. The Iconography of Manhattan Island. New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1928.

White, Frank Marshall. "The Finest Police Headquarters in the World." Harper's Weekly, August 14, 1909, p. 27.

White, Frank Marshall. "The Passing of 300 Mulberry Street," Harper's Weekly, Jan. 18, 1908, pp. 16-17.

FORMER POLICE HEADQUARTERS
New York County, New York
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 18
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1975-76

MAR 28 1980

JAN 29 1980





ALFRED J. YOUNG COLLECTION. N. Y. C.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS (FORMER)
Hoppin & Koen

240 Centre Street
1905-09

JAN 29 1980

JAN 2 1980

MAR 28 1980

Property

Former Police Headquarters Building

State

NY - New York

Working Number

1-29-80 373

80002690

TECHNICAL

Photos 5Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

This large structure, dating from 1905-10 was built in the neoclassical Beaux Arts style. It is a distinctive and elegant building representing an important early 20th century style. The building is also notably associated with the history of the New York City Police force.

The now vacant structure shows deterioration at the interior and it would have been useful if the nomination had addressed the question of its future use.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
ARCHEOLOGIST

ACCEPT. P. Reed. 3/21/80

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
L. Beebe
3/24/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2-3-81

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered MAR 28 1980



MAR 28 1980

1 of 5

Former Police Headquarters Building,

New York, New York *County*

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979.

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

JAN 29 1980



MAR 28 1980

2 of 5

Former Police Headquarters Building
New York, New York. *County*

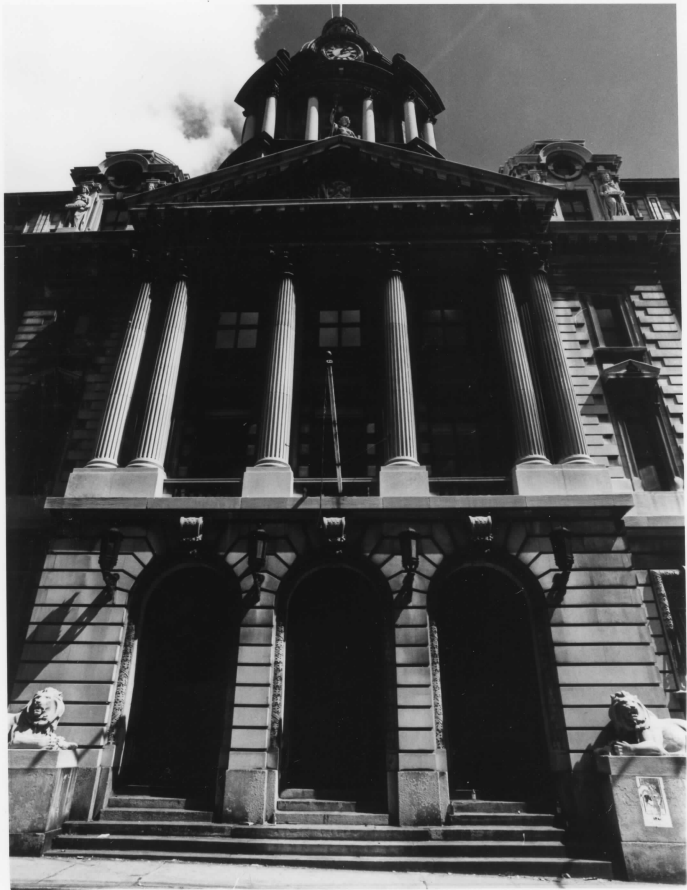
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979.

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks

Preservation Commission.

Centre Market Place facade.

JAN 29 1980



3

75

Former Police Headquarters Building,
New York, New York. *County*

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979.

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

View of main entrance.

JAN 29 1980

1980

28

MAR



MAR 28 1980

4-085
Former Police Headquarters Building,
New York, New York. *County*

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979.

Neg. at New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

View of central stairway.

JAN 29 1980



MAR 28 1980

of 5

former Police Headquarters Building,
New York, New York. *County*
photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1979.
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.
View of Commissioner's Office.

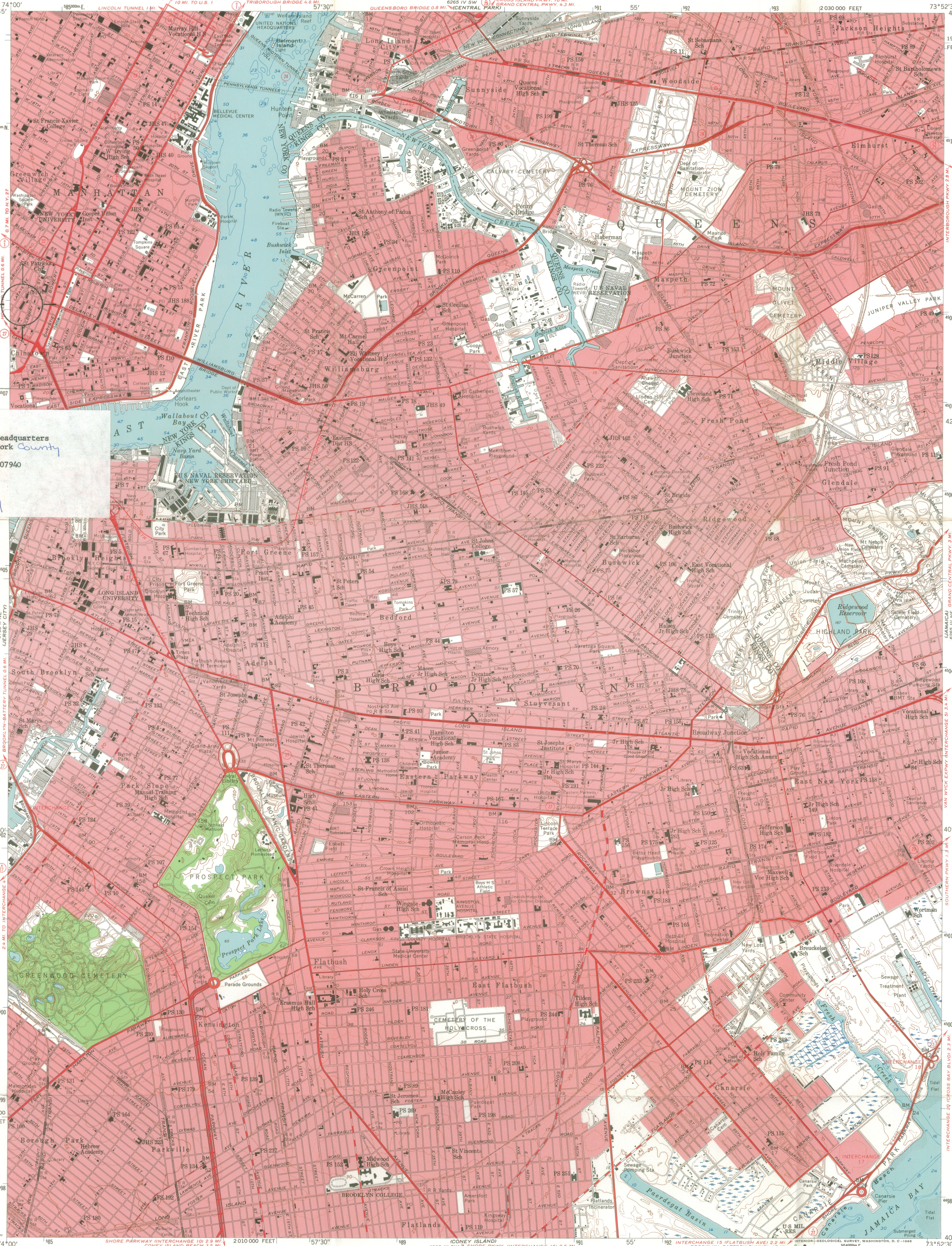
JAN 29 1980

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

Former Police Headquarters
New York, New York County
UTM References:
18/ 584560 / 4507940

Brooklyn Quad



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

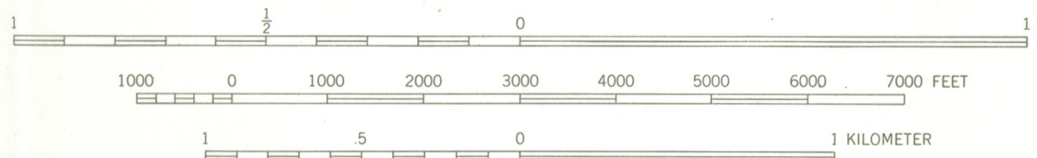
Control by USC&GS, USCE, and City of New York Board of Estimate and Apportionment

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)

Polycyclic 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



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. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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



BROOKLYN, N.Y.
NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4037.5-W7352.5/7.5
1956
AMS 6265 III NW-SERIES Y821



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered MAR 28 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Elliott, Dr. Samuel MacKenzie, House	Staten Island Richmond County
Former Police Headquarters Building	New York New York County
Eldridge Street Synagogue	New York New York County
Roosevelt, Sara Delano, Memorial House	New York New York County
Harvard Club of New York City	New York New York County
Church of the Immaculate Conception and Clergy House	New York New York County
McGraw-Hill Building	New York New York County
Reed Memorial Library	Carmel Putnam County
DeRham Farm	Garrison vicinity Putnam County

Also Notified

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered MAR 28 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Gardner, Silas, House	Gardnertown Orange County
Yelverton Inn and Store	Chester Orange County

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan Also Notified

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
Honorable John M. Murphy
Honorable Sedgwick W. Green
Honorable Ted Weiss
Honorable Hamilton Fish, Jr.
Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman

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

NR Byers/bjr 4/3/80

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