

**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 St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 22 Barclay Street not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of congressional district 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
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☒ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Parish of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

street & number 31 Barclay Street

city, town New York vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York state New York 10007

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LP-0078 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
Landmarks Preservation Commission

date December 21, 1965 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository 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

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church at 22 Barclay Street is no doubt the foremost and finest example of a Greek Revival church building in New York City. It is the Greek temple-church in full form with six Ionic columns widely spaced, supporting a low pediment to form the portico. The wide entablature and cornice are composed of heavy wooden moldings which are sheathed in a protective covering of sheet metal. The building is a large rectangle with a high basement and a low-pitched peaked roof. The sides of the building which face the streets are of granite ashlar masonry laid with great precision. The east side is done in Manhattan schist. A full-width flight of granite steps leads up to the columned porch and the main level of the church, which is emphasized by a broad granite belt course at the top of the basement. The main facade behind the columns of the porch is completely plain except for three monumental doorways. The side elevations are also plain and regular and contain six, long, narrow windows which have square windows above them. This regularity tends to set off the perfection of the masonry and further accentuates the mass of the building which serves as a foil for its extremely refined detail. The combination of all of these features results in a building of fine proportions, crisp detail, monumental aspect and purity of design. The exterior of the church was designed by John R. Haggerty and it is clear that, with some modifications, he took his inspiration from the famous "Temple on the Ilissus" at Athens erected in 484 B.C. The handsome iron fence with its spear finials is original and is in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR FEATURES: The design of the interior of St. Peter's is attributed to Thomas Thomas. The entire interior is one large space 2 1/2 stories in height and unencumbered by any supporting arches or columns and this is most unusual. There is a gallery only across the rear. Designed as a massive entablature with large plain moldings, it is supported by only two sizable fluted wooden Ionic columns. The ceiling is very fine, with guilloche, foliate and egg-and-dart plaster moldings and three large plaster acanthus leaf rosettes in the central section. There is an original organ screen in the form of a triple tabernacle with Corinthian pilasters and decorative anthemions. The white marble main altar and side altars were installed in 1905 as the gift of three brothers, George, John and Edward Smith, in memory of their parents.

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 1836–1840

Builder/Architect John R. Haggerty and Thomas Thomas

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Peter's Church is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. It is one of only two churches with full temple fronts in Manhattan. Its site at the corner of Barclay and Church Streets is the location of the oldest place of continuous Roman Catholic worship in New York City.

The parish was founded in 1785 by St. Jean de Crevecoeur, the well-known observer of the American scene in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Famous for his Letters of an American Farmer, he was the French consul to America at the time. The cornerstone of the first church on the site was laid in 1785 and that building was razed in 1836. The present St. Peter's is the second building and has been in continuous use since it was completed in 1840.

The architectural importance of St. Peter's has caused it to be attributed to many prominent architects but its architects were John R. Haggerty and Thomas Thomas, who are relatively unknown, but were masters of their craft. Haggerty withdrew from the project in 1838 and Thomas took over to complete the building. The building has been described in Classic New York:

"St. Peter's Church...is the temple-church at its finest. Here again is the monumental scale and meticulous simplicity by which austere elegance was deliberately invoked. Dedicated in 1838, and finished in 1840, it was built for the oldest Roman Catholic parish in New York and was a most unusual choice of style for a Catholic church. The rage for the Greek united all."¹

¹Ada Louise Huxtable, Classic New York (Garden City: Anchor Books, 1964), p. 78.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Huxtable, Ada Louise, Classic New York. Garden City, New York:
Anchor Books, Doubleday & Co., Inc. 1964.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. St. Peter's Church Designation
Report (LP-0078). New York: City of New York 1965

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Jersey City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 8 5 8 3 6 3 0 4 5 0 7 0 7 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Manhattan Tax Map Block 88, Lot 11.

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 James E. Dibble, Sr. Landmarks Preservation Specialist Contact: Elizabeth
for Joan R. Olshansky, National Register Coordinator Spencer-Ralph
518-474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date October 9, 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

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

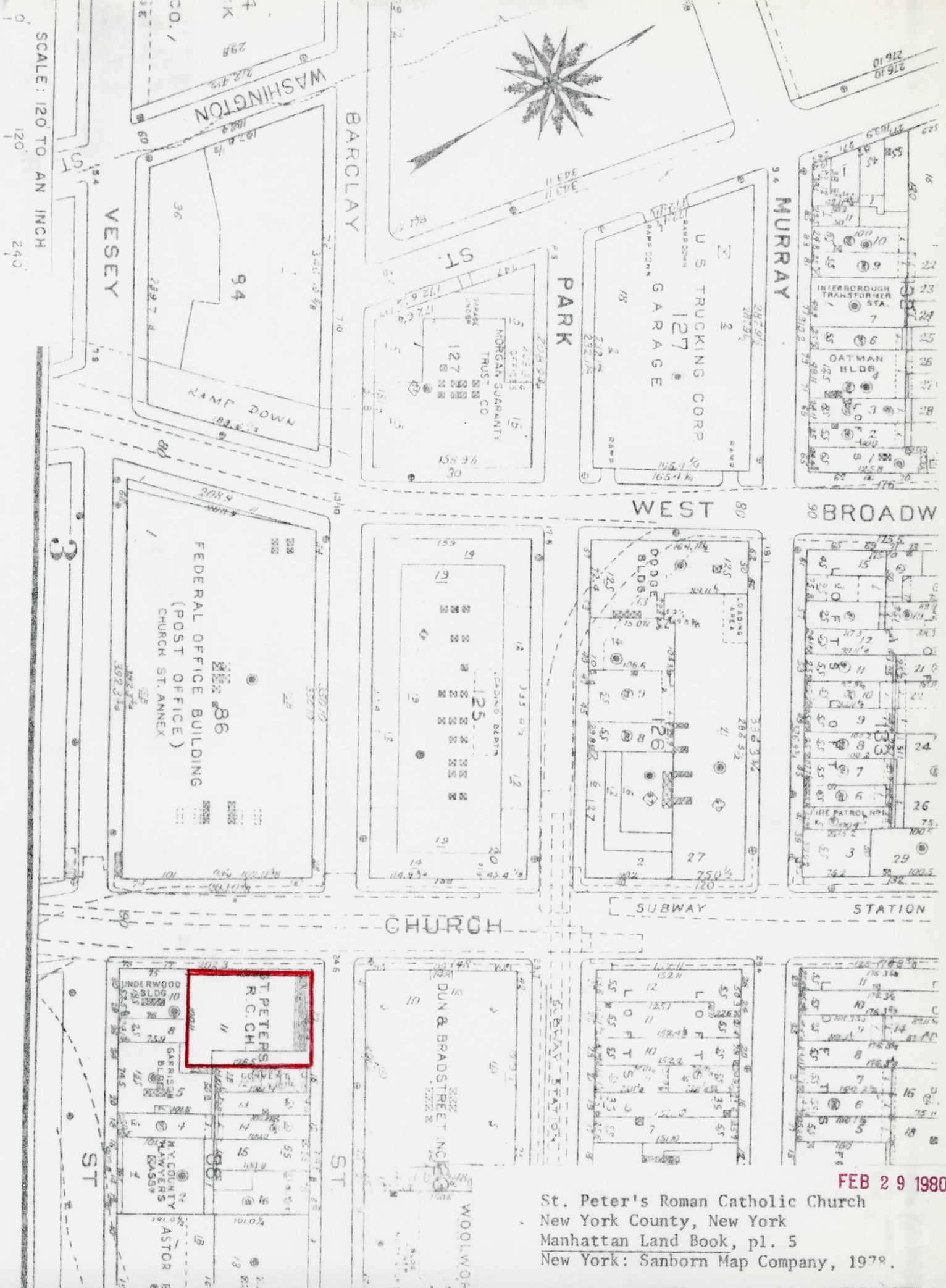
for *Bruce M. Dargatzis*
Keeper of the National Register

date April 23, 1980

Attest: *Lynn A. Beebe*

date April 18, 1980

Chief of Registration



FEB 29 1980

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
New York County, New York
Manhattan Land Book, pl. 5
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1978.

1980 0 1 1 1 1 1

APR 23 1980

Property

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

80002721

State

NY - New York

Working Number

2-29-80 677

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 2

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

Fine embodiment of Greek Revival style expressed in the traditional temple form, & executed on a monumental scale & with simplicity.

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 _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered APR 23 1980



1. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
22 Barclay Street

New York, NY *County*

APR 23 1980

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View of facade towards south

FEB 29 1980

1063



2. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

22 Barclay Street

New York, NY *County*

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

APR 23 1980

Interior View towards entrance

FEB 29 1980

2 of 3



3. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
22 Barclay Street

New York, NY *County*

APR 23 1980

Photo by: Stephen Senigo, 1979

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

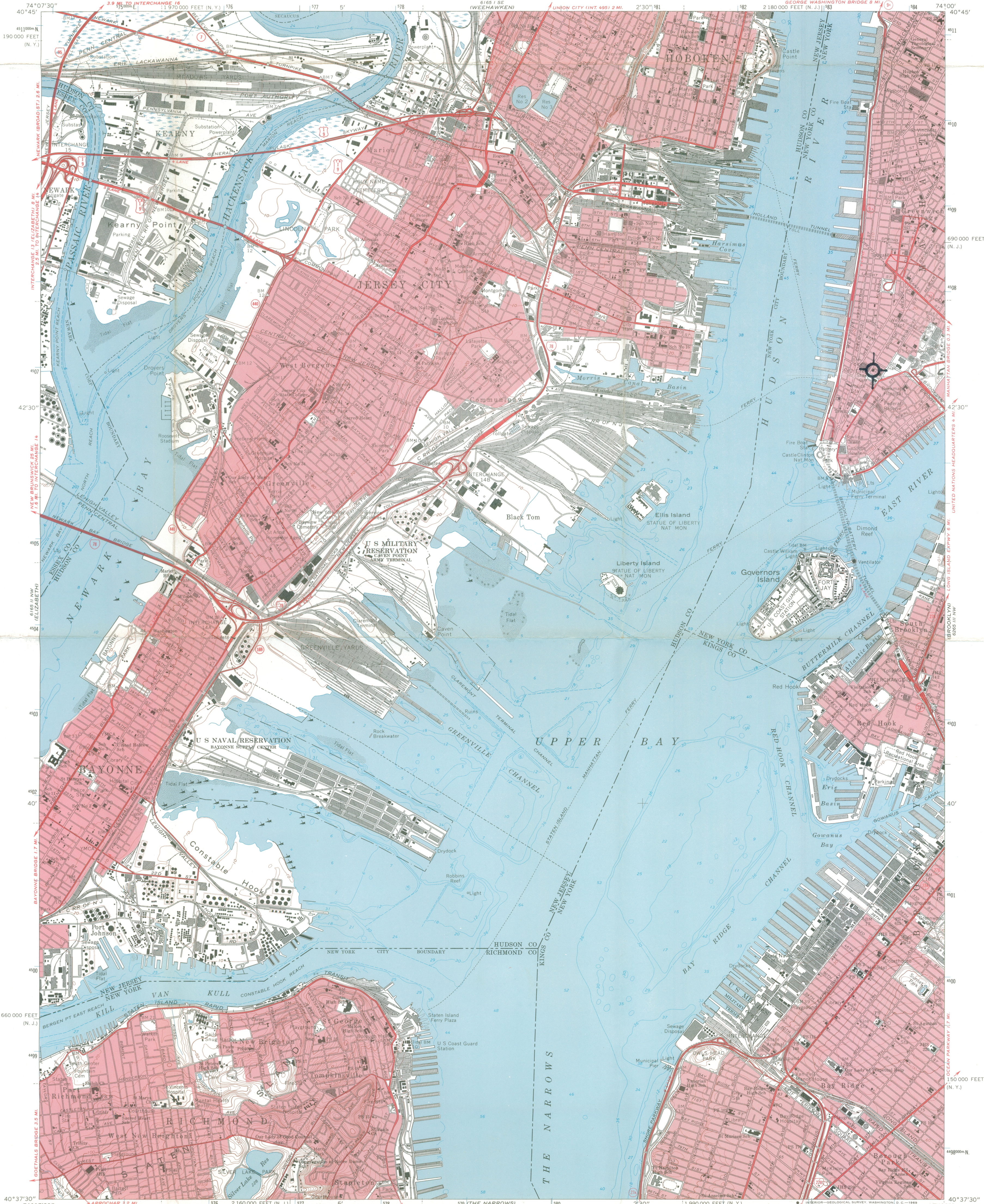
Interior view towards altar

FEB 29 1980

3673

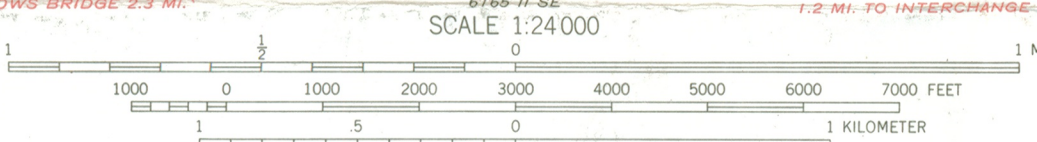
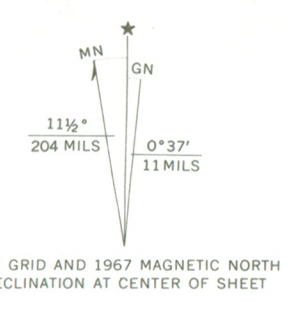
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
New York, New York
UTM Reference 18/583630/ 4507070
Jersey City, New Jersey

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 planimetric 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.—N.Y.
N4037.5—W7400/7.5

1967
AMS 6165 II NE—SERIES V822



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

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

4/30/80

Byers/bjr

NR

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

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
Schinasí 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>
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