

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 25 1981

DATE ENTERED

JUL 23 1981

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 New York Public Library, Hamilton Grange Branch

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER 503 and 505
503 West 145th Street
-505

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

CODE
032

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20

COUNTY

New York

CODE

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
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME New York City
City Hall

Contact: New York Public Library

STREET & NUMBER

250 Broadway

Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street

CITY, TOWN

New York, New York

VICINITY OF

New York, New York 10036

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New York Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE
New York**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE

March 31, 1970

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE
New York

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Located on the north side of West 145th Street, a major east-west thoroughfare which is filled with small shops and theaters, the Hamilton Grange Branch Library, built in 1905-1906, was designed in the style of the Italian Renaissance and has the character of a Florentine palazzo.

Characteristic of the style, the openings are the major elements. The openings are graded from the large, round-arched door and windows of the first floor, to the rectangular, pedimented windows of the second story. There are narrow windows between the larger ones, which also are aligned one above the other, but they are graduated the opposite way; from the smallest at the first story to the largest at the third. These opposing gradations work together to set up the dominant up-and-down movement across the facade. Countering that movement is the fact that the heavier rustication at the first floor gives a solidity to the base, and the fact that the second and third-story windows are resting on band courses which are emphatically horizontal.

The composition is unified by the rustication and the refined detail which is carried over the entire facade. The bronze lamps, the grilles on the small windows of the first story, the lace-patterned fence, are well balanced by the decorated panels above the small second-story windows, and the frieze with fleur-de-lis ornament.

The composition is symmetrically ordered. This is emphasized by the large escutcheon on the keystone above the central entrance, bearing the seal of the City of New York. It is further emphasized by the use of an arched pediment over the central window, instead of the triangular pediments which surmount the two windows at either side. The inscription, "New York Public Library," centered on the frieze, completes the central emphasis at the cornice level.

Although originally designed as a detached building, the architects designed the side elevations as party or commonwalls. The rear wall is brick and is seven bays wide. The firstfloor windows have been removed and a one-story, flat-roofed wing which is used as a reference room for the public was added to the rear of the building in 1973. In that year, the interior was completely rebuilt. The library reopened on June 16, 1976. The main floor is the location of the circulation desk, the card catalog and reading areas. The remaining floors contain the stacks and house the staff.¹ Since the interior was completely gutted, no interior historic features remain. The rear wing is considered to be a non-historic addition. The entire tax lot (less than one acre) is included in the nomination and the library fills most of the lot. On either side of the library, are non-historic buildings consisting of tenement buildings, a laundromat and a school.

Footnotes

¹This description is taken from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, Hamilton Grange Branch of the New York Public Library Designation Report, New York, 1970.

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 checked="" 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 1905-1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT McKim, Mead and White

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamilton Grange Branch of the New York Public Library, is an outstanding example of the work of McKim, Mead and White in the Italian Renaissance style. The subtle, precise control of detail and elements results in a classically symmetrical yet dynamic composition. In addition, its construction was associated with Andrew Carnegie's unique gift to New York City and its library system.

The Hamilton Grange Branch Library is one of eleven libraries designed by McKim, Mead and White for the New York Public Library. It is one of their most successful adaptations of the Italian Renaissance style.

McKim, Mead and White believed that buildings of the same basic type and use can still adapt to a particular environment and place. An illustration of this is the series of branch libraries. . . designed for the New York Public Library system between 1902 and 1914. The individual buildings were to be scattered about the city within easy reach of all citizens. The plans for each of these eleven were nearly identical, yet each building is an imaginative variation on a common theme. The designs have balance . . . that seems suitable for a library. Each design is so varied as to be quickly distinguishable from the others, making each library unique to its neighborhood. ¹

This library was one of sixty-five branches built with funds contributed by Andrew Carnegie, as part of the program to develop a branch library circulating system. At the turn of the century, there were three public libraries in New York City: the Astor Library, the Lenox Library and the Tilden Library Trust. These three libraries merged in 1895 and the New York Public Library system was established. The goal of the Board of Trustees was to create a free circulating library branch system for the city and for this purpose, the steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie, donated \$5,000,000. This system developed into the present eighty-two branch libraries.

When the Hamilton Grange Branch Library was constructed, the area in which it is located was predominantly middle class and residential. During the first half of the century, this composition changed to a lower income, multi-racial community. The Hamilton Grange Branch Library, however, has remained a center of stability in the neighborhood.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Monograph of the Works of McKim, Mead & White (1879-1915). New York: Benjamin Blom, Inc., 1973.

Ellis, Edward Robb, The Epic of New York City. New York: Coward-McCann, Inc., 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 8 5 88 68 0 45 1 97 1 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 2077, Lot 26. Bounded on the south by West 145th Street; on the north by Block 2077, Lot 37 and part of Lot 38; on the east by 501 West 145th Street, Block 2077, Lot 29, 30, 31 and part of 32; on the west by 507 West 145th Street, Block 2077, Lot 24.

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

Suzanne J. Wilson, Consultant

Contact: Anne B. Covell, 518-474-0479

Div. for Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

DATE

July 24, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

92 Perry Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

New York, New York 10014

New York

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

Ann Webster Smith

TITLE Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation DATE

9 June 81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

7-23-81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 25 1981
DATE ENTERED	JUL 23 1981

New York Public Library
Grange Branch New York County

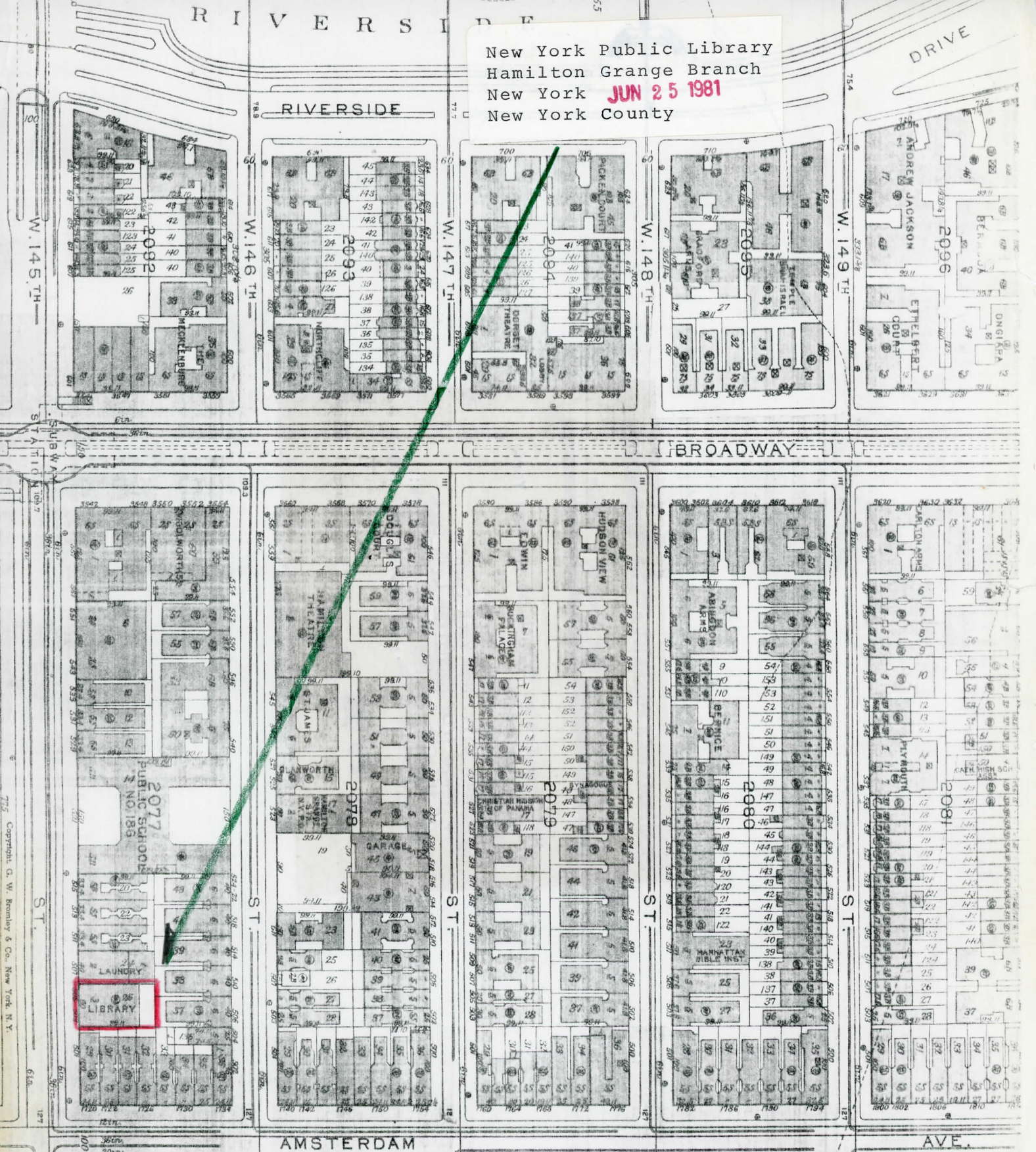
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Footnotes

A Monograph of the Works of McKim, Mead and White (1879-1915)
(New York: Benjamin Blom, Inc., 1973), p. 38.

New York Public Library
Hamilton Grange Branch
New York **JUN 25 1981**
New York County



BUILDING ZONE RESTRICTIONS

USE ZONES
Properties fronting on Streets or Avenues colored purple are used as business properties. Properties fronting on Streets or Avenues uncolored are restricted to dwelling use. Those fronting on Streets or Avenues colored brown are unrestricted.

BUILDING ZONE RESTRICTIONS

HEIGHT ZONES
All properties on this plate are in zone V_a and the height of buildings is restricted to one and one-half times the width of the Street or Avenue on which they front.



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

Hamilton Grange Branch of the New York
Public Library

503-505 West 145th Street

New York City, New York County

Map taken from Manhattan Land Book
of the City of New York, New York:

G.W. Bromley & Co., Incorporated, 1955

JUL 23 1981

DUE 7/22/81 — 5/9/81, 81000410
dnr-3

Name New York Public Library Hamilton Grange Branch
State, County NY, New York Fed Nom or Request Agency
Working Number 6.25.81.221 Federal Register Date 2.2.82

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)
☐ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps 6/
Photos 3

Nomination prepared by:
☐ State Staff
☒ Local
☐ Other

Entered in the
Action: National Register
☒ ACCEPT 7.23.81
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:
☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____

See Attached _____



JUL 23 1981

NY Public Library, Hamilton Grange

Branch

503 W. 145th St., New York, NY

New York County

Description: Interior

JUN 25 1981

Date: about 1977 -- Negative filed at

H.G. Library



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, HAMILTON
GRANGE BRANCH

503-505 WEST 145 STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK COUNTY JUN 25 1981

photo: Gray Bryan, III.

date: February 9, 1979 JUL 23 1981

location: N.Y. Landmarks Preservation

of Neg: Commission

view: North side of WEST 145 STREET,
main facade.



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

The New York Public Library,
Hamilton Grange Branch
503-505 West 145 Street,
New York County *ny*

Photo: Gray Bryan

Date: February 8, 1979

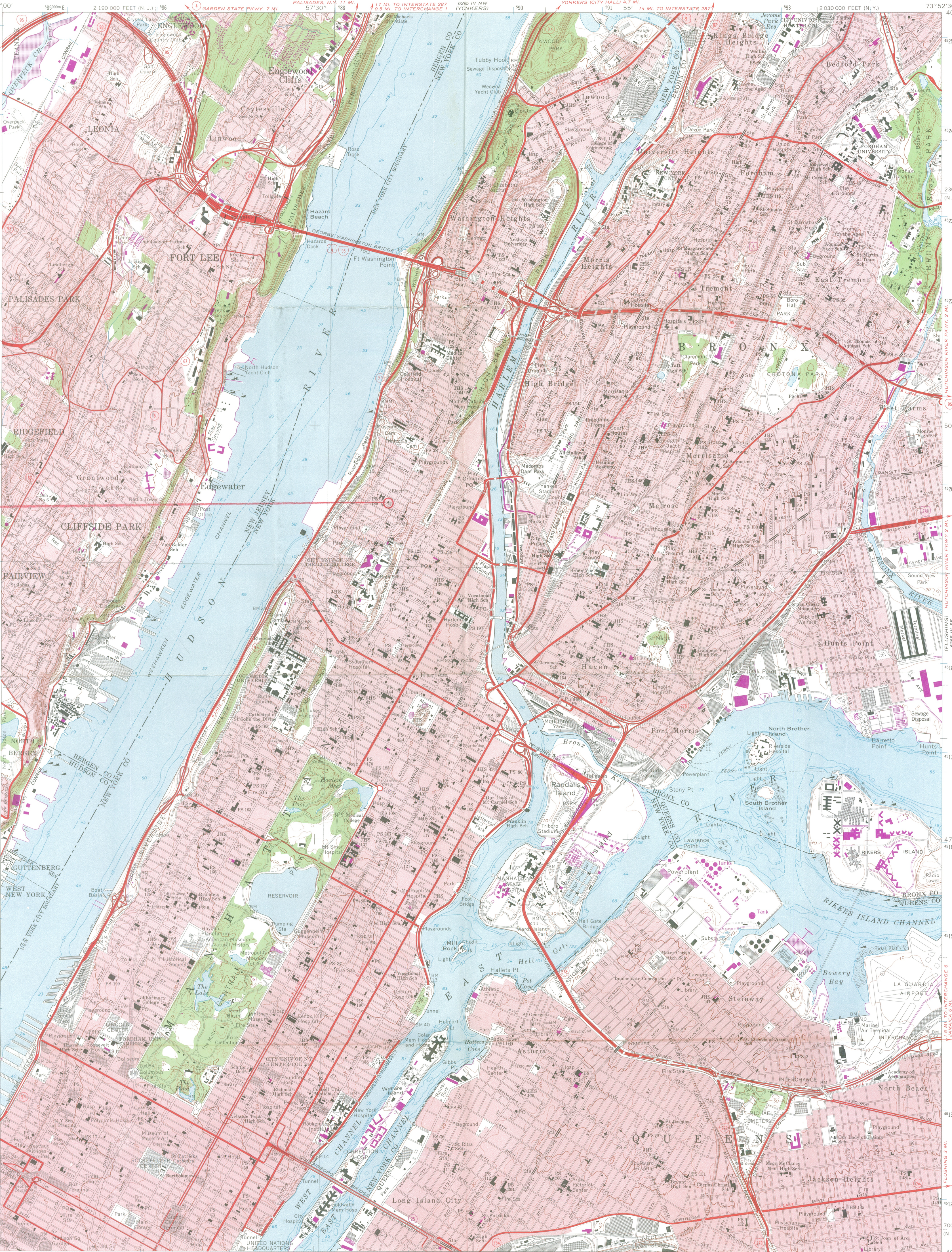
JUN 25 1981

JUL 23 1981

Location: New York City Landmarks Preservation
of Neg: Commission

View: North side of West 145 Street

Main Facade



Central Park Quad
New York
Public Library
HAMILTON GRANGE
BRANCH
NY, NY CO.
588 680
4519 710

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-5089, 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.

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH SURVEYS AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET
4 FEET IN THE HUDSON RIVER AND 5.7 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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 1/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE
N4045—W7352.5/7.5

1966
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6265 IV SW—SERIES V821

JUL 23 1981



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered JUL 23 1981

Name

Location

New York Public Library, Hamilton Grange Branch

New York
New York County

Also Notified

Honorable Alfonse D'Amato

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Honorable Theodore S. Weiss
North Atlantic Region, NPS

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

NR

Eady/bjr/7/27/81

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

272-3504