

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 29 1982

DATE ENTERED

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

AND/OR COMMON

Apartment Building at 1261 Madison Avenue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1261 Madison Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

CODE
036

COUNTY

New York

CODE
061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED
NA

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carnegie Hill, 90th Street Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

555 Madison Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

10028

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New York County Registers Office

STREET & NUMBER

31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE
New York

10007

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Landmarks Preservation Commission
Designation Report (LP-0865)

DATE

July 25, 1974

has this property been determined
eligible? NO☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N.Y.C. Landmarks Preservation Commission 20 Vesey Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE
New York

10007

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT

☒GOOD

—FAIR

—DETERIORATED

—RUINS

—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒UNALTERED

—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED

DATE NA

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is located at the corner of 91st Street and Madison Avenue within an area that is residential, with small shops and rowhouses. Although there are other tall apartment buildings, No. 1261 Madison is notable for its early date and Beaux-Arts style. The building is freestanding, separated by areaways from the adjoining buildings. The rear and side elevations are of simple brick with unornamented fenestration.

The apartment building is seven stories tall, including a tiled mansard roof (photo 1). Smooth rusticated limestone is used on the first two stories, which form a base for the composition. The main entrance is located on Madison Avenue. The entry projects and is flanked by rusticated pilasters enclosing a molded enframingent. A short flight of stairs leads to double doors. The enframingent is crowned by a voluted broken pediment set on foliate consoles with floral blocks. Volutes in the break of the pediment enframe the street number "1261." A large cartouche with marble medallion surmounts the pediment. The three stories above the rusticated base are faced with smooth limestone accented by panels beneath the windows at the fourth and fifth stories. On both street facades the windows on these three floors have keyed enframingents. The outermost bays on the Madison Avenue elevation project slightly, and the fifth story windows are arched and crowned by rich cartouches. Flanking consoles support a continuous modillioned cornice which spans both formal elevations and is surmounted by a wrought-iron balcony rail. The sixth-story windows have keyed flat arches with frieze panels above. The projecting outer bays are emphasized by two-story pilasters which rise to the mansard roof and flank the windows on both floors. These windows are crowned by arched pediments, and arched pediments also surmount the other windows of the mansard roof.

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

1900-1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Buchman & Fox

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This handsome apartment house is a fine intact example of the neo-Baroque Beaux-Arts style, popular at the turn of the century for both tall buildings and town houses. Commissioned by Gilbert Brown, a real estate developer, No. 1261 was planned to house only fourteen families. Although a few luxury apartment buildings such as the Dakota and the Osborne had been constructed in the 1880's, it was not until the turn of the century that many prominent and well-to-do families who had previously resided in private town houses decided that, for convenience and often for economic reasons as well, it was advantageous to live in apartment houses. No. 1261 is an early example of the New York luxury apartment building and a rare survivor from its period.

The area in which the building is located acquired the name Carnegie Hill after Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate and philanthropist, erected his mansion at Fifth Avenue and 91st Street, completed in the same year as No. 1261. The area had begun to develop as a residential area for the middle class during the 1880's, after the completion of the New York Elevated Railroad on Third Avenue in 1881. Simple brownstone rowhouses, many of which survive today, were constructed during the last decades of the nineteenth century. After Carnegie, a number of prominent citizens moved to the area, and mansions were constructed between Madison and Fifth Avenues in the East 90's until the Depression. No. 1261, although compatible with the development of Carnegie Hill, is an atypical building type for its period and location.

No. 1261 was designed by the architectural firm of Buchman & Fox. The firm was well known for its commercial structures and town houses executed in neo-French Renaissance, neo-Georgian and other styles popular at the turn of the century. No. 1261 is one of their most successful works, a well-proportioned and balanced composition. The exuberant carved detail of the neo-Baroque Beaux-Arts style is used rather sparingly and lends dramatic focus to the entry and to the roofline, and the overall effect is one of restraint coupled with elegance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alpern, Andrew. Apartments for the Affluent. New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., 1975
Landmarks Preservation Commission. Carnegie Hill Historic District Designation Report
LP-0861, July 23, 1974.
Landmarks Preservation Commission. Upper East Side Historic District, draft report,
LP-1051, 1980. Architects Index.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle name: Central Park, N.Y.-N.J. Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

A 18 588020 4515030
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property occupies Manhattan Tax Map Block 1502, Lot 20 and is approximately 100 x 65 feet, as indicated on the attached map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Goeschel Landmarks Preservation Specialist

contact: Anne B. Covell
Division/Historic
Preservation (518)-
474-0479

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE
January 1982

STREET & NUMBER

20 Vesey Street

TELEPHONE
566-7577

CITY OR TOWN

New York City

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

[Signature]

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

DATE

9/22/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

Entered in the
National Register

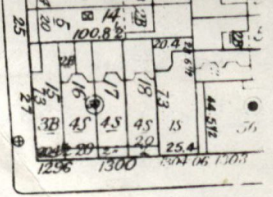
DATE

10/29/82

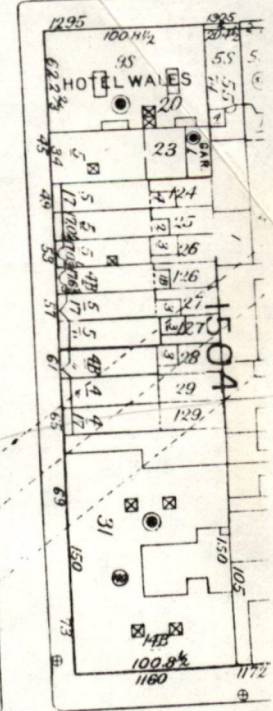
ATTEST:

DATE

for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



MADISON

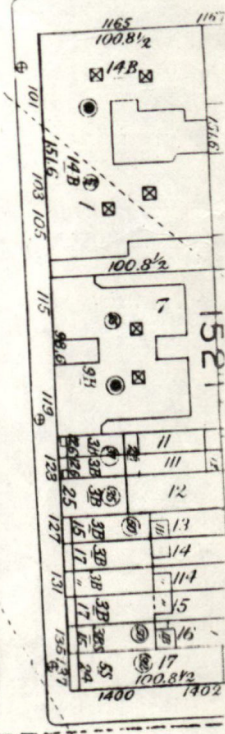


E. 9074

E. 91st St.

PARK

B. Waldron. A

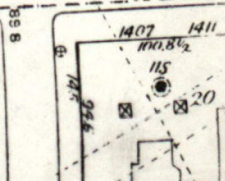


APARTMENT Building at 1261 Madison Ave

New York County, *New York*
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 118
New York: Sanborn Map Company, updated 1981

Ed. Douglas Map No. 187

LEXINGTON



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Apartment at 1261 Madison Avenue
New York County
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/29/82-2655

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 10/29/82 - 11/13/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/29/82

Entered in the ☐ RETURN ☐

National Register ☐ REJECT ☐

Federal Agency: _____

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Apartment Building at 1261 Madison Ave

1. [REDACTED]
New York County, New York

Photo by: S. Senigo, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the west



Apartment Building at 1261 Madison Ave

2.

New York County, New York

Photo by : S. Senigo, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the north

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

Apartment Building at
1261 Madison Avenue
New York County, New York
UTM Reference: 18 588020 7515030
Central Park, N.Y.-N.J. Quad.

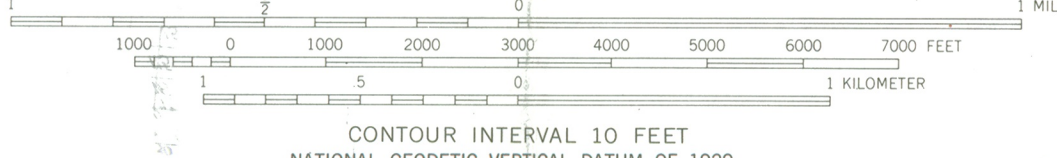
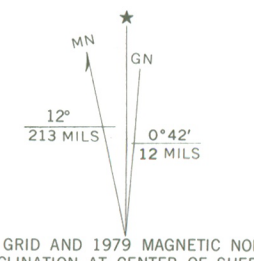


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York
Department of Transportation

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and by 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES 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



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

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