

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

SEP 27 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Barbizon Hotel for Women

and/or common The Barbizon Hotel

2. Location

street & number 140 East 63rd Street _____ not for publication

city, town New York _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state New York code _____ county New York code _____

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
	<u>N.A.</u>	☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Barbizon Hotel Partnership

street & number 140 East 63rd Street

city, town New York _____ vicinity of _____ state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New York County Hall of Records (City Register)

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York _____ state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date _____ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local ☐

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 Barbizon Hotel is a 23-story structure located on the south-east corner of Lexington Avenue and East 63rd Street in Manhattan. The building's two primary elevations face Lexington Avenue on the west and East 63rd Street on the north; the secondary elevations face south and east in mid-block locations. The frame of the building is steel encased in concrete; the skin is salmon-colored brick with beige sandstone and terra-cotta trim.

Constructed in 1927, the design incorporated an eclectic, romantic blend of decorative elements including Italian Renaissance, Gothic and Islamic.

The basement, sub-basement and first and second floors are rectangular and fill the entire site. From the third floor up, the building features a series of setbacks resulting in successive decreases in floor area as the building rises. The shape of the hotel from floors 3 to 22 is a U with base fronting on East 63rd Street; the top floor is rectangular with a hipped standing-seam copper roof.

The base of the building is a two-story-high arcade, ten bays long on Lexington Avenue and eleven bays long on 63rd Street. Storefronts fill the first floor of the arcade on Lexington Avenue, while the hotel's entrance and public areas fill the first floor of the arcade on East 63rd Street. The second floor of the arcade on both streets features multi-pane metal casement windows. Separating the windows are flat pilasters of alternating bands of sandstone and brick. Stylized sandstone Corinthian capitals of elongated acanthus leaves crown each pilaster. The wall areas of the building's base are alternating courses of brick and sandstone, simulating rustication.

The exterior wall surfaces above the base are primarily brick embellished with terra-cotta ornament. At the upper portion of each wall surface projecting brickwork simulates latticework, battlements and Moorish decorative motifs. Small terra-cotta balconies project from brick and terra-cotta arcades at the perimeter of a series of terraces at the 18th floor level. After six successive setbacks, the north, east and west elevations are crowned with three monumental pointed-arch windows below a gigantic pointed-arch dormer with terra-cotta Gothic style tracery. The windows from floor 3 to 17 have double-hung, one-over-one metal sash, while the windows on floors 18 to 23 have multi-pane metal casement sash.

The lobby of the hotel is entered from East 63rd Street. The original finishes were removed in a series of alterations, the most recent one completed in 1982. The essential character of the space, however, remains intact because the configuration has not been altered.

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Continuation sheet Barbizon Hotel for Women
New York, NY, NY Item number 7 Page 2

Another significant interior space is the recital room, which is located on the second floor. It is decorated in a style reminiscent of Elizabethan England with dark oak paneled walls and massive exposed boxed beams. A large stained-glass window on the south wall commemorates French artists. A replica of the building is included in the window. Directly under the window is a platform for performing artists. A narrow fireplace on the west wall is constructed of brick and metal and is painted with polychrome flourishes. It is surmounted by a broken pediment with "19 B 27" inscribed within it commemorating the year in which the Barbizon was built. The major architectural element of the room is a large pipe organ built into the full length of the east wall. The architectural integrity of this room remains largely intact.

The exterior of the building also remains largely intact except for minor alterations: the Lexington Avenue storefronts have been remodeled several times; the canopy and entrance doors on East 63rd Street have been altered several times; and in recent years, rectangular holes have been cut into the masonry under the windows for air-conditioning units.

In 1981 the hotel was purchased by the Barbizon Hotel Partnership for conversion from a residential hotel to a commercial hotel with a limited number of cooperative apartments. The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation under the Tax Act according to the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

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 1927

Builder/Architect Murgatroyd and Ogden

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barbizon Hotel, formerly known as the Barbizon Hotel for Women, is architecturally and historically significant. It was built in 1927 as a temporary residence for young women, and it became known as the finest residential hotel for the well-educated and socially prominent. Many of its residents later became famous actresses and models. The Barbizon was designed by New York architects Everett F. Murgatroyd and Palmer H. Ogden, who were responsible for the designs of other New York hotels including the Governor Clinton, the Gramercy Place and the Allerton. A fine example of eclectic, early twentieth century architecture, the Barbizon combines elements from Italian Renaissance, Gothic and Islamic architecture in a skyscraper form.

During New York's building boom of the 1920's, skyscraper technology reached an advanced stage, while aesthetic considerations remained tied to the past. The result was the application of historical architectural details to the contemporary steel and concrete skyscraper frame. The Barbizon, like other skyscrapers constructed during the 1920's, was an evocation of past eras in a contemporary form. Architectural details from the past created an aura of tradition and stability that the builders of the Barbizon (United Club Residences, Inc.) intentionally sought to evoke in providing a residence for women in transition between childhood homes and adult careers.

During the 1920's, new alternatives were opening up to women. It became acceptable for the first time for young women to move from the family home to the city to pursue careers in business and the arts. Many young women who moved to New York after 1927 took up residence at the Barbizon because it provided a residential environment that approximated the one they had left behind. The values of the hotel management were quite similar to the values of their parents. No young woman was allowed to live at the Barbizon unless she came with three character references; no male visitors were allowed above the lobby floor; and the management enforced strict rules of conduct and dress.

Although the Barbizon provided a small number of rooms with private baths, most of the residents shared bathroom facilities, and meals were provided in a dormitory-like setting. Amenities, however, included a swimming pool, a gymnasium, handball and basketball courts, a library, an art gallery, music studios and a recital room equipped with a pipe organ and stage. An eighteenth-floor roof garden with arcaded terraces was also open to residents, as was a solarium, a lounge and a dining room.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Central Park, NY-NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 118 487 2110 4512 9010
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property coincides with the legal lot no. 49 on block no. 1397, known as 140 East 63rd St., New York, NY, as shown on the attached map, Manhattan Land Book, 1980-81.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N.A.

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne B. Covell

Historic Preservation

organization Field Services Bureau

date August 1982

Agency Building #1

street & number Empire State Plaza

telephone 518/ 474-0479

city or town Albany

state New York 12238

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

Ann Webster

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date September 15, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

for Eleanor Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Barbizon Hotel for Women
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Page 2

Social activities, including afternoon tea and concert series, were planned, and the staff included a social director and a librarian. The hotel also provided meeting space for women's organizations, such as the National Junior League, the Arts Council of New York, the Wellesley College Club and others.

Over the years, the Barbizon Hotel acquired a reputation as the finest residential hotel for women in New York City. Among the women who were once residents of the hotel are Grace Kelly, Candice Bergen, Cloris Leachman, Farrah Fawcett, Liza Minnelli and Ali MacGraw.

The Barbizon Hotel illustrates an important episode in the architectural and social history of New York. It functioned in its original use until 1981, when it was converted for use as a commercial hotel, retaining a high degree of its architectural integrity.

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Continuation sheet Barbizon Hotel for Women
New York, NY, NY Item number 9

Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References:

"The Barbizon Opened." The New York Times, November 1, 1927, p. 47.

Gordon, Alice, "Elegy for a Faded Lady." New York Daily News, January 2, 1981, pp. M1-M4.

Price, Matlack, "The Barbizon." The Architectural Forum, May 1928, pp. 677-692.

"Reflects Modern Woman, Barbizon Residence Exhibits Strength and Daintiness." The New York Times, September 25, 1927, section XII, p. 24.

"Rooms Being Rented in the New Barbizon." The New York Times, October 23, 1927, section XI, p. 1.

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Barbizon Hotel for Women

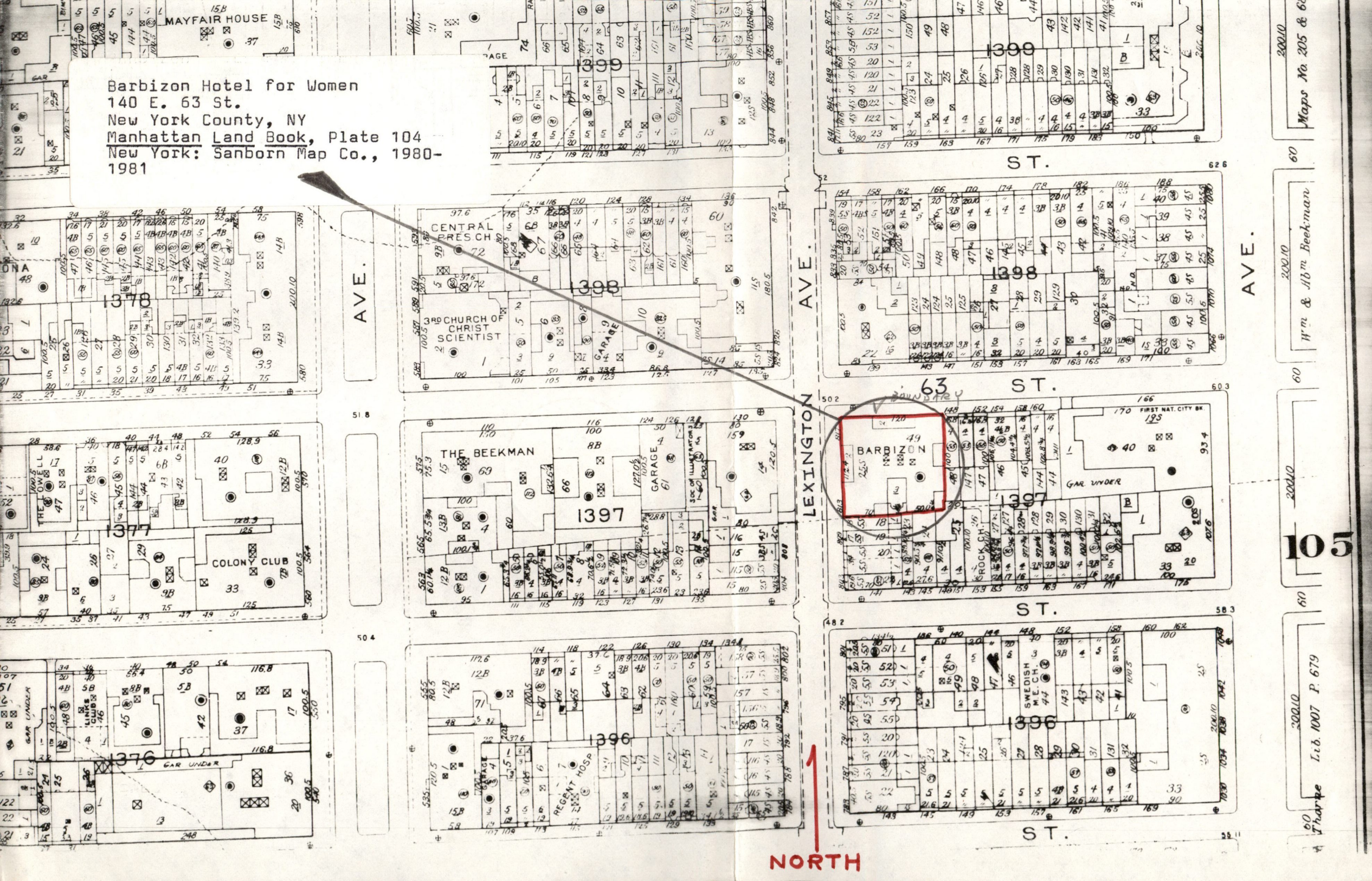
Continuation sheet New York, NY, NY Item number 11

Page 2

11. Research and draft form prepared by

Steven R. Ruttenbaum, Consultant
30 West 86 St., #2F
New York, NY 10024
212/ 496-8453

Barbizon Hotel for Women
140 E. 63 St.
New York County, NY
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 104
New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1980-1981



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Barbizon Hotel for Women
New York County
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/27/82-244Fed. Reg. Date: 2.18.83Date Due: 10/29/82 - 11/11/82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/29/82Entered in the ☐ RETURNNational 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. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ altered

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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



Photo # 1

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Rутtenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation

View: East elevation



Photo # 2

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Ruttenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg.: Div. ~~for~~ Historic Preservation

View: South elevation



Photo # 3

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Ruttenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation

View: West elevation (Lexington Ave)



Photo # 4

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Ruttenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg: Div. ~~for~~ Historic Preservation

View: Street level west elevation
(Lexington Ave)



Photo # 5

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Rittenbaum Aug. 1982

Neg: Div. ~~for~~ Historic Preservation

View: Street level north elevation
(63rd St.)



Photo # 6

Barbizon Hotel

New York, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Ruttenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg: Div. *for* Historic Preservation

View: Eighteenth floor terrace



Photo # 7

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Rутtenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg: Div. ~~for~~ Historic Preservation

View: Recital room interior



Photo # 8

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Rittenbaum Nov. 1981

Neg.: Div. ~~for~~ Historic Preservation

View: Lobby before current renovation



Photo # 9

Barbizon Hotel

New York City, NY, NY

Photo: Steven Ruttenbaum Aug. 1982

Neg.: Div. for Historic Preservation

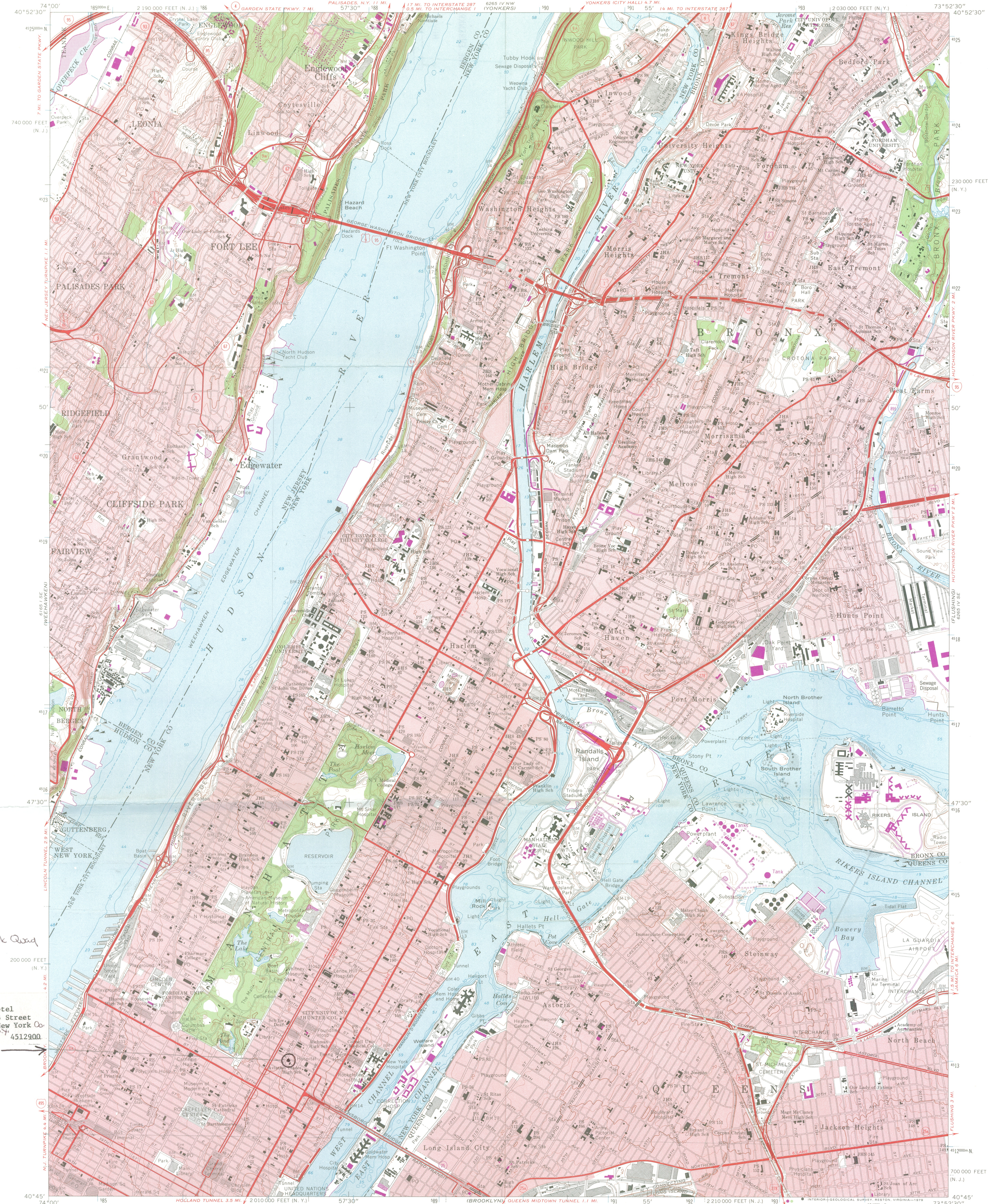
View: Lobby after current renovation

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

665 V. (N. J.)
665 V. (N. J.)
665 V. (N. J.)



Central Park Quad
Barbizon Hotel
140 East 63 Street
New York, New York Co.
18/487210 4512900

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

SCALE 1:24,000
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

THE EHRENKRANTZ GROUP

NOV 91981
