

**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 SEP 29 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic First Police Precinct Station House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South Street and Old Slip not for publication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 ☒ museum
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☒ educational ☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	<u>NA</u> in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	<u>NA</u> being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of New York Robert Litke, Commissioner, Dept. of General Services. Lessee:
Whitney Museum
street & number 1800 Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street 945 Madison Ave N.Y. N.Y.
10021
city, town New York vicinity of state New York 10007

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmarks Preservation Commission has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
(LP-0968)

date September 20, 1977 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Landmarks Preservation Commission 20 Vesey Street

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

NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First Police Precinct Station commands an open, waterfront site at the otherwise densely developed southern tip of Manhattan. The entire nominated lot is a self-contained unit bounded on all four sides by city streets, and the building occupies the entire lot thus circumscribed. The freestanding, 11-bay, four-story, limestone structure was designed in the neo-Italian Renaissance style by Hunt & Hunt and erected in 1909-11. It is characterized by horizontal, strictly symmetrical massing and minimal detail. The elevations are clearly divided into three sections: molded granite base, rusticated limestone upper stories, and unadorned attic level (photo 1). The main entrance is centrally located on the south facade, approached by a short stone stoop (photo 4). Composed of recessed, paneled wood-and-glass double doors and a transom light, the entry is crowned by a triangular pediment mounted on console brackets. Engaged, rusticated Doric columns flank the doors, supporting a modillioned entablature capped by a stone balustrade.

Secondary doors pierce the base of the building on either side of the main entrance, flanked by recessed, arched, two-story window bays with bracketed sills. These windows are marked at second story level by bronze spandrel panels that appear over iron grilles. Similar bronze panels crown the double-doored entries and splayed stone voussoirs cap the windows. Eleven square windows with corbeled sills and rusticated voussoirs light the third story.

The central window over the main entrance is surmounted by an elaborate cartouche bearing the date of the building and the seal of the City of New York. A molded string course marks the division between the smooth-faced attic story and the rusticated lower floors, serving as a sill for the eleven, plain attic windows. The 11-bay north elevation and single-bay sides are designed with the same fenestration as the front wall. An overhanging denticulated and modillioned cornice crowns the building.

Inside, the station retains the original oak sergeant's desk, a three-story cell block, and a cast-iron staircase that extends the full height of the building.

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 1909–1911 **Builder/Architect** Hunt & Hunt

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Designed by the prestigious firm of Hunt & Hunt, the First Police Precinct Station is an excellent example of the neo-Renaissance style with the distinctive profile of an early Renaissance palazzo. Many of its features, such as the arched openings of the main story, the rusticated walls, and the dominating cornice, are reminiscent of the fifteenth-century Palazzo Ricardi in Florence, designed by Michelozzo. Although the building is small in scale, the succinctly composed structure gains special power from an accomplished play of voids and solids. The station house is one of few low-massed, classically inspired buildings that stands in a highly congested and developed area of Manhattan.

The waterfront site, Old Slip, is important historically as the city's oldest commercial slip and official market place established in the seventeenth century. The slip began to be filled in at the turn of the eighteenth century and eventually formed a wide street of the same name. In 1821, the Franklin Market was erected on Old Slip. Despite all precautions, the Great Fire of 1835 entirely destroyed this market building and much of lower Manhattan. During the next year, the second Franklin Market was constructed on Old Slip between Front and South Streets, the newly declared legal eastern boundary of Manhattan. The upper floors of the Franklin Market housed the First Police Precinct after the municipal police department had been organized in 1844. The station house was moved to 29 Broad Street for a short period during the 1860's.

In 1883, the newly elected mayor of New York, Franklin Edson, recommended the erection of new station houses to replace earlier dilapidated ones. As a result, several station houses were immediately built, including the First Police Precinct Station of 1884 at Old Slip. Reportedly the city's first modern police station, this four-story structure stood until the present station house was erected on the same site in 1909–11.

Renderings of the new station house were displayed at the 23rd Annual Exhibit of the Architectural League of New York in 1908. The architects, Richard Howland Hunt (1862–1931) and Joseph Howland Hunt (1870–1924), were the sons of the prominent New York City architect Richard Morris Hunt (1827–1895). The elder son practiced with his father until 1895 and in 1901 the brothers established their own firm. They were well known for elegant Long Island and Newport residential works, as well as for New York City townhouses, including the famed George Washington Vanderbilt House (1902–05) on Fifth Avenue. Richard Howland Hunt also carried out his father's design for the central portion of the Metropolitan Museum of Art after the latter's death.

This police station was occupied by the First Precinct until January 1973, when it was vacated. It remained vacant until 1979, when the Whitney Museum remodeled the interior of the station house as the Whitney Museum Downtown Cultural Center. The structure housed newly designed studios and exhibition and performance areas, and preserved the exterior of one of Manhattan's finest examples of neo-Renaissance design. The building has been vacant since 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of New York, Buildings Department Records.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Research files.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property under 1 acre

Quadrangle name Jersey City, N.J.-N.Y.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated building occupies
Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 34, Lot 37. (As outlined
on attached map)

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

NA

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Carley (contact: Anne B. Covell, Division of Historic Preservation (518)
474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date Dec. 1981

street & number 20 Vesey Street telephone 212-566-7690

city or town New York, N.Y. state New York

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

Ann Webster

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date 9/22/82

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 Melvyn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FIRST POLICE PRECINCT STATION
New York County, New York
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 1
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1981



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

First Police Precinct Station House
New York County
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/29/82-2644Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83Date Due: 10/29/82 - 11/13/82Action: ☒ 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	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ 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

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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 _____

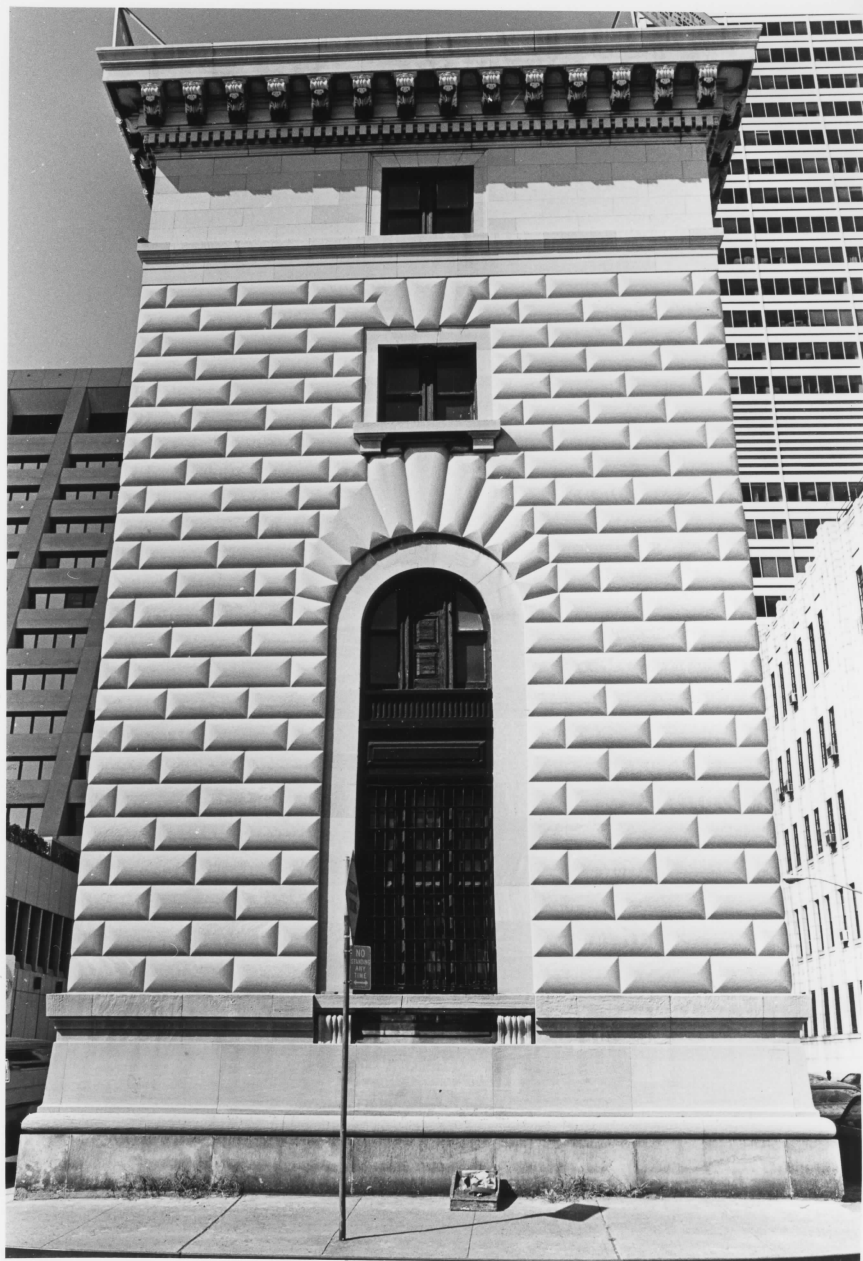
13. Other

- _____ 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

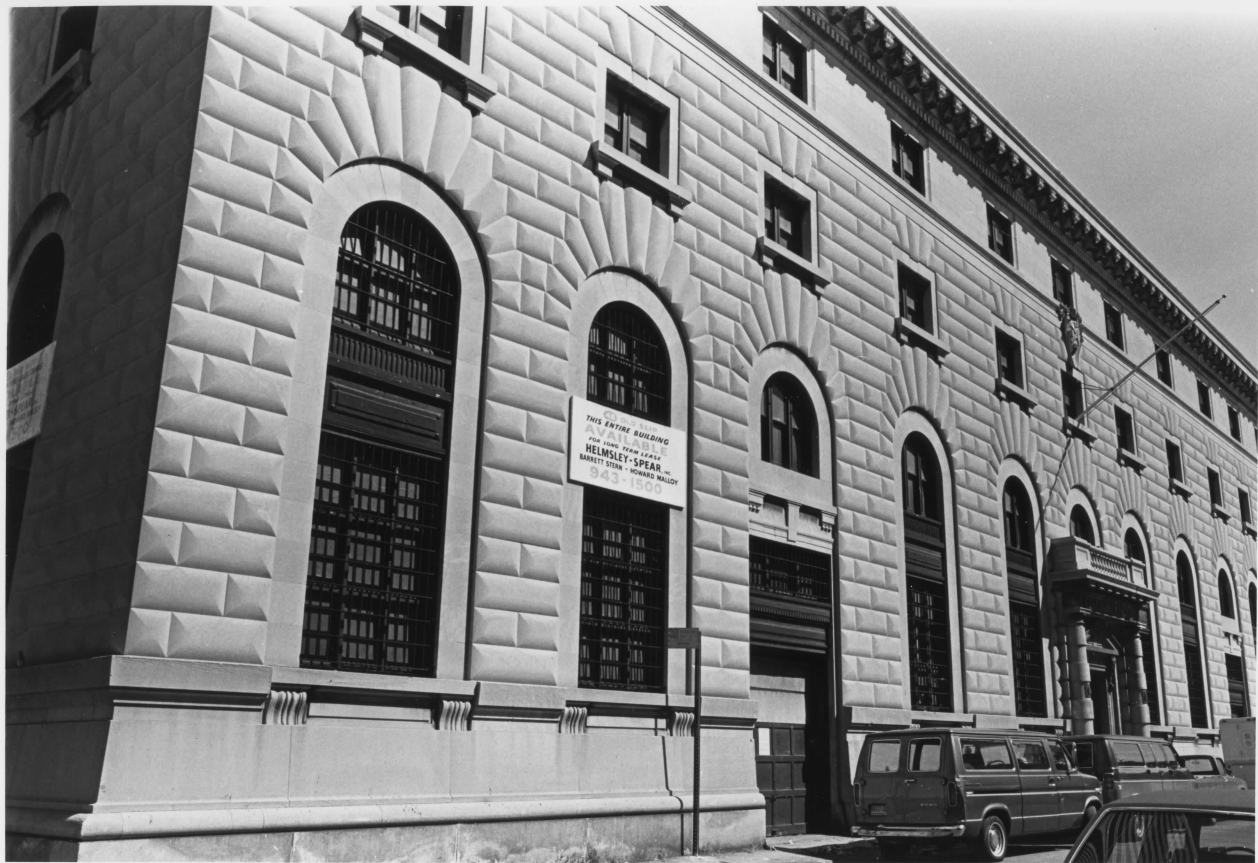


1. First ~~Police Precinct~~ Station
New York County, New York, NY

Photo by: Carl Foster, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the southeast



2. FIRST ~~Police Precinct~~ STATION
New York County, New York NY

Photo by: Carl Foster, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the northwest



3. FIRST ~~Police Precinct~~ STATION
New York County, New York , NY

Photo by: Carl Foster, 1981
Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the north



4. FIRST ~~Police Precinct~~ STATION
New York County, New York, NY

Photo by: Carl Foster, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

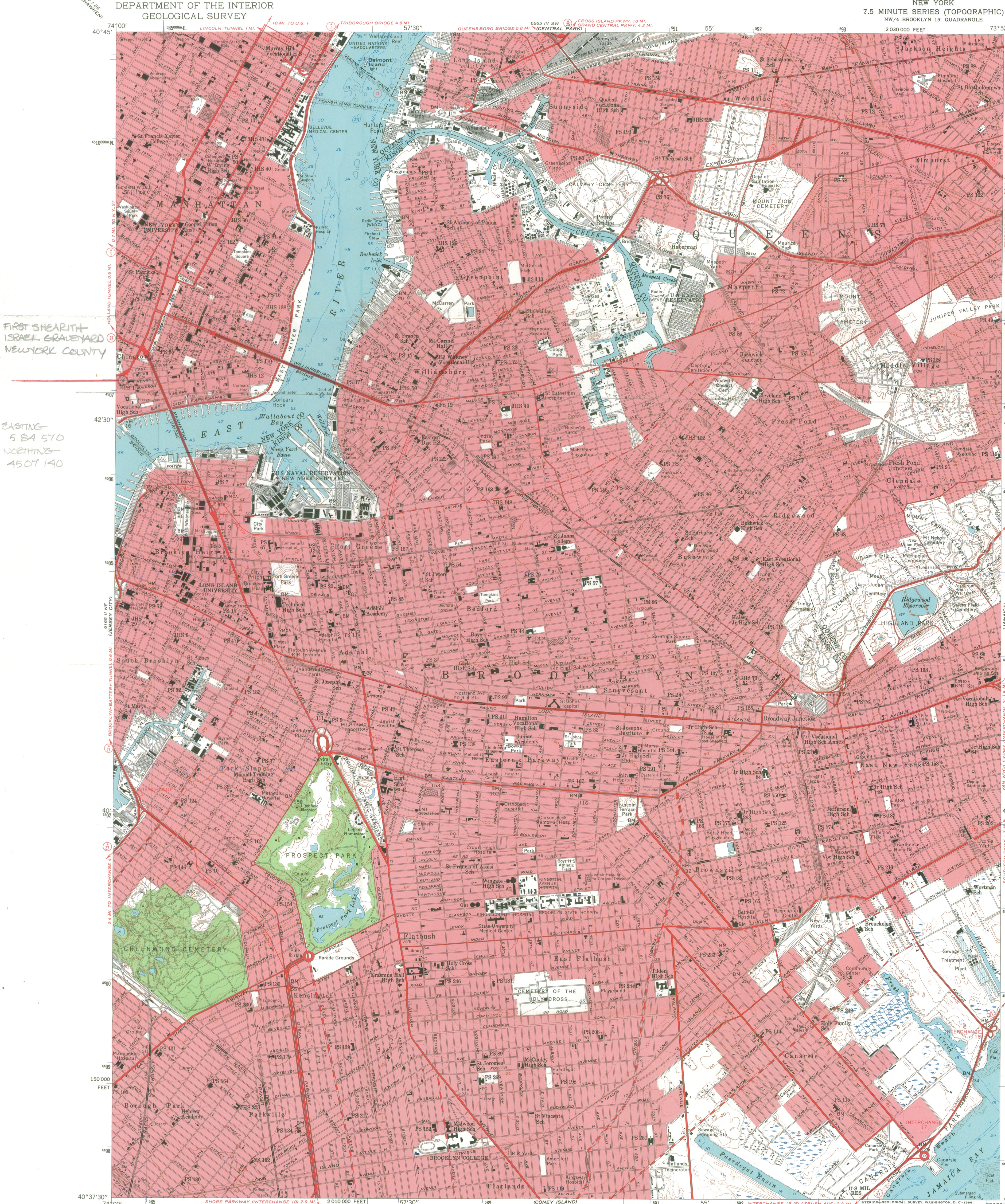
View from the southwest
South elevation entrance detail

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

FIRST SHEARITH
ISRAEL GRAVEYARD
NEW YORK COUNTY

EASTING
5 84 570
NORTHING
4507 140



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)
Polyconic 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

Scale 1:24,000
1 inch = 2000 feet
1 centimeter = 100 meters

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 LOW 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

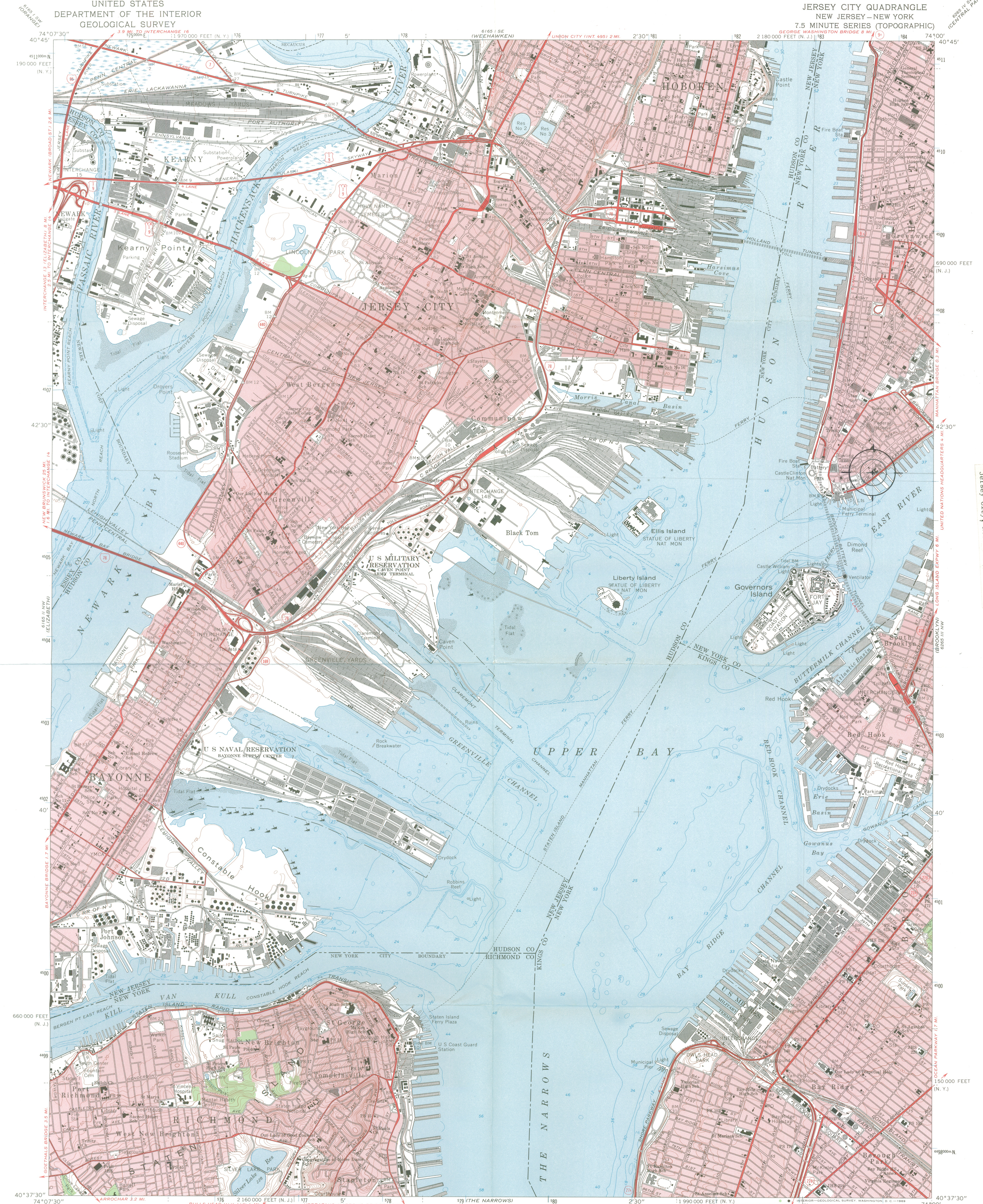
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4037.5-W7352.5/7.5
1956
AMS 6265 III NW-SERIES V821

RECEIVED
FEB 29 1980
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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



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 planetable 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
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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

For Blue Ridge Station House
New York County, New York
UTM Reference:
18 583760 4506080
Jersey City, N. J.—N. Y. Quad.