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

1. Name

historic New York County Lawyers Association Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14 Vesey Street

city, town New York

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>X commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>X military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | | | | X other: clubhouse

4. Owner of Property

name New York County Lawyers Association

street & number 14 Vesey Street

city, town New York

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

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>Landmarks Preservation Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>has this property been determined eligible?</td>
<td>yes X no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>date</td>
<td>November 23, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depository for survey records</td>
<td>Landmarks Preservation Commission, 20 Vesey St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city, town</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___excellent</td>
<td>___deteriorated</td>
<td>X unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X good</td>
<td>___ruins</td>
<td>X original site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___fair</td>
<td>___unaltered</td>
<td>___moved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___unexposed</td>
<td></td>
<td>date N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in the historic and important civic center of New York City, the New York County Lawyers Association Building is an elegant limestone structure. Four stories high, the building is set back from the street behind a shallow garden enclosed by a tall wrought-iron fence. The ground floor is rusticated and contains the central entrance flanked by large square-headed windows. The second and third floors are joined vertically by two-story-high fluted pilasters. Between the pilasters are tall French windows at the second floor and crisply cut square-headed windows at the third. Ornamental plaques are placed between the second and third floor windows. The pilasters carry a restrained cornice with dentils and modillions. The facade is crowned by a balustrade. Behind the balustrade, the attic fourth story has square-headed windows and is enhanced by paneled pilasters.

Among the major interior areas that retain their original fabric and details are:

- Entrance Hall with marble facing, arched openings and ornamental plaster ceiling;
- Second Floor Foyer with colored columns and pilasters, arched openings and ornamental ceiling;
- Second Floor Auditorium of neo-Georgian design with white wood paneling and ornamental ceiling;
- Second Floor Lounge Room of neo-Georgian design with dark wood paneling and columns and handsome mantels;
- Fourth Floor with restrained entrance hall and podium stairs, and the neo-Georgian Board of Directors' Room with white paneled walls and marble mantels.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archaeology-prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archaeology-historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>landscape architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>humanitarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other (specify)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific dates** 1928-1930  **Builder/Architect** Cass Gilbert

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The New York County Lawyers Association Building is a small but imposing clubhouse designed by Cass Gilbert, a prominent American architect. Built for a distinguished legal fraternity, the building is in the neo-Georgian style, a style selected by the architect because it was "simple, dignified and impressive," and bore a "certain relation to the architecture of Old Saint Paul's Church," directly across the street.¹

Gilbert (1858-1934) was born in Ohio and educated in Saint Paul, Minn. and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Early in his career, he worked in the office of McKim, Mead and White and served as personal assistant to Stanford White. He returned to St. Paul and formed the firm of Gilbert & Taylor in 1882. The association lasted about six years after which Gilbert established an independent practice. Among his more important works are: the West Street Building, the Broadway Chambers Building, the Woolworth Building, and the Federal Courthouse in New York City; the West Virginia State Capitol; the reconstruction of the Arkansas State Capitol; the annex to the U.S. Treasury and the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C. During his long career, Gilbert served as president of the American Institute of Architects, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Academy of Design and was a founder of the Architectural League.²

The New York County Lawyers Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on April 21, 1908. The purpose of the organization is "the cultivation of the science of jurisprudence; the promotion of reforms in the law; the facilitation of the administration of justice; the elevation of the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession; the cherishing of the spirit of brotherhood among the members of said association."³ Among its many distinguished members have been William Howard Taft, Charles Evans Hughes, Benjamin Cardoza, James A. O'Gorman, Samuel Seabury and Elihu Root.


9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Jersey City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 88, Lot 2, and is approximately 100' x 75' in size. As outlined on the attached map.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne B. Covell, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

organization: Agency I Building, Empire State Plaza

date: 8/82

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

title: Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date: 9/27/82

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date: 10/29/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

New York County Lawyers Association

Form Prepared By:

James T. Dillon, Landmarks Preservation Specialist
Landmarks Preservation Commission
20 Vesey St.
New York, NY
212-566-7577
New York County Lawyers Association Building
New York County
NEW YORK

Working No. 93N82-264
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 9/29/82
Action: ACCEPT 9/29/82

National Register
REJECT

Federal Agency: _______________________

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments: _______________________

Recom./Criteria _______________________
Reviewer _______________________
Discipline _______________________
Date _______________________

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

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<tr>
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<td>Accessible</td>
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>deteriorated</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
<td>original site</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
<td>moved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Area 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.
1. New York County Lawyers Association
14 Vesey Street
New York, N. Y. County, NY
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.
Main Facade.
2. New York County Lawyers Association
   14 Vesey Street.
   New York, N. Y. Country, NY

   Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
            Preservation Commission.

   Main Staircase.
3. New York County Lawyers Association  
14 Vesey Street  
New York, N. Y. County, NY  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission.  
First Floor Hall.