

**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 HCERS use only

received SEP 29 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Felix M. Warburg Mansion

and/or common The Jewish Museum

2. Location

street & number 1109 Fifth Avenue

___ not for publication

city, town New York

___ vicinity of

congressional district

18

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

NA in process

NA being considered

Status

☒ occupied

___ unoccupied

___ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

___ yes: unrestricted

___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture

___ commercial

___ educational

___ entertainment

___ government

___ industrial

___ military

☒ museum

___ park

___ private residence

___ religious

___ scientific

___ transportation

___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jewish Theological Seminary of America

street & number 3080 Broadway

city, town New York

___ vicinity of

state

New York 10027

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 10007

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmarks Preservation Commission

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ☒ no

date March 11, 1980

___ federal ___ state ___ county ☒ local

depository for survey records 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 house is located in the Carnegie Hill area of Manhattan, a residential district with town houses, brownstone row houses, and luxury apartment buildings. It is near to the Carnegie Hill Historic District and is one block north of a group of locally designated and National Register listed mansions, including the Andrew Carnegie mansion, now the Cooper Hewitt National Museum of Design, and the Otto Kahn Residence, now the Academy of the Sacred Heart. Like these, the Warburg house faces Central Park across Fifth Avenue, but with the main entrance facade on the side street.

The house is executed in Indiana limestone, a fine-grained, light gray stone suited to the Francois I style, since it allows for very smooth wall surfaces as well as sharply defined, ornate detailing. The house has steeply pitched slate roofs with pinnacled stone gables and tall chimneys, copper cresting and finials. There are five principal floors, a basement below street level, and a sixth story with small copper dormered windows. The 92nd Street main facade is subtly asymmetric while that on Fifth Avenue is symmetrically disposed. The walls are pierced by windows of various types--all typical of the Francois I style: "basket-handle" arched, square headed, and square headed with rounded upper corners and ogee arch enframements. These windows are ornamented by a variety of details, including stone mullions and muntins with colonnette-like bases, foliate borders, tracery, and drip moldings terminating in foliate bosses. Projecting bays and balconies further enliven the elevations, which are divided by two molded band courses and an elaborately carved cornice into four principal sections.

The broad basket-handle arched entry on East 92nd Street is flanked by small arched windows and surmounted by heavy brackets, one of the building's few Renaissance-inspired details, which support a small balcony with a stone balustrade. Square-headed windows and a service entrance also appear at this story. The second story, which contains the principal rooms of the mansion, has large windows with ogee-arched drip moldings and a richly carved three-sided projecting bay above the entrance. Paired basket-handle arched windows and a broad tripartite window flanked by pinnacled pilasters are the main features of the third story, while the fourth is recessed at the center with flanking balconied windows. The cornice with elaborately carved corbeling supports the great stone gables of the fifth story. Two larger gables enframe three smaller ones, and all are richly adorned with pinnacles and crockets. The roof has two hipped roof towers and tall stone chimneys ornamented with engaged Gothic columns.

The Fifth Avenue elevation contains a projecting two-story bay with flanking single windows at each story. At the third story are three basket-handle arched windows, the central one with a balcony and enframing pinnacled pilasters. Similar windows appear at the fourth story and at the fifth, behind a carved balustrade is a large stone gable with a smaller one to each side, all similar in design to those of the 92nd Street elevation.

To the north of the house and internally connected to it, is a non-contributing modern addition. Four stories high and faced with concrete, it is set back from the Fifth Avenue property line behind an arcade. The side elevations are party walls and the rear elevation is not visible.

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 1906-08

Builder/Architect C.P.H. Gilbert

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Few of Fifth Avenue's grand mansions have survived and, therefore, those remaining have become all the more important. The Felix M. Warburg mansion is among the very finest left to us, an exceptionally handsome example of the Francois I style constructed in 1906-08 for Felix and Frieda Warburg and designed by the leading New York architect C.P.H. Gilbert. The Warburgs were members of highly respected international banking families and were renowned philanthropists. Mrs. Warburg donated the mansion to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, for use as a museum, as an affirmation of her faith in Jewish principles and traditions.

By the early 1900s, Fifth Avenue facing on Central Park had earned the nickname "Millionaires Row" and was the quintessential expression of America's Gilded Age. The chateau at 1109 Fifth Avenue is a representative survivor by architect Charles Pierrepont H. Gilbert who, at the turn of the century, was one of New York's most prestigious architects. Specializing in residential design, he became a "kind of l'architect du roi for American millionaires."

Felix M. Warburg (1873-1937) was a member of the prominent German Jewish banking family. Born in Hamburg, he immigrated to New York and married Frieda Schiff, daughter of Jacob Schiff, head of the New York banking firm of Kuhn, Loeb, & Co. He worked in his father-in-law's firm and became a senior partner. Warburg was a bon vivant, a yachtsman, a polo player, an art collector and an early automobile enthusiast.

At the time of Warburg's death in 1937, the New York Times characterized him as a man "who enjoyed an international reputation as a philanthropist and champion of social causes." ³ The list of charities and institutions to which he contributed not only vast sums of money but also his administrative and organizational skills is truly staggering.

Although Warburg by no means restricted his philanthropy to Jewish causes, he was deeply involved with Jewish concerns. During World War I, when Central European Jews endured desperate privations, Warburg became a founder and chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, of which he remained head until 1932. He also helped to establish the United Jewish Appeal and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. Although a non-Zionist, he was involved with the Jewish Agency for Palestine and with the founding of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He served as a director of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America to which his wife, seven years after his death, donated the Fifth Avenue mansion.

Warburg, his father-in-law Jacob Schiff, and brother-in-law Mortimer Schiff all played important roles in the establishment of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Jewish Museum.

Given this background, it seems especially appropriate that Mrs. Warburg decided to donate her mansion as a permanent home for the Jewish Museum. In 1944 she wrote: "This gift is not intended as a specific memorial, but rather as an affirmation of my faith in the fundamental principles of our traditions, which

9. Major Bibliographical References

See also continuation sheet

Birmingham, Stephen. Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York. New York: Harper & Row, 1967.

Farrer, David. The Warburgs: The Story of a Family. New York: Stein & Day, 1974.

Huxtable, Ada Louise. "Design Notebook: A Mansion that deserves more than Platitudes,"

New York Times. December 27, 1979, C-10.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Under one acre

Quadrangle name Central Park NY-NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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5	8	7	9	7	10
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4	15	1	15	2	4	10
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B

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C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Manhattan Tax Map Block 1504, Lot 1, and is approximately 102 x 100 feet as outlined on the attached map.

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

NA

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Goeschel

Contact: Anne B. Covell, State Division for Historic Preservation

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission

date March, 1981

street & number 20 Vesey Street

telephone (212) 566-7577

city or town New York

state New York 10007

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 Smith

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 Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Felix Warburg Mansion

Item number 8

Page 2

New York County, N.Y.

can be helpful and constructive in the problems of our world today, and also as a tribute to the men of my family, my father, my husband, and my brother Mortimer, who each in his own way has done so much to build up the seminary toward its present effective usefulness...It gives me great happiness to think that the house my dear husband built 36 years ago as his conception of Beauty and Dignity and which for so many years harbored our harmonious family life and was always open to community interests should be now to live on to further ideals of our family tradition."⁴

The mansion, Warburg's conception of "Beauty and Dignity," continues to welcome the visitors with whom Mrs. Warburg wished to share it. It is a grandly scaled building, its style adapted from the transitional late Gothic and early Renaissance styles of the Loire Valley. The so-called Francois I mode had been introduced to New York in the early 1880s and rapidly became popular. C.H.P. Gilbert's version of the style was boldly scaled and included Gothic detail almost to the exclusion of Renaissance, as the Warburg mansion reveals. Only one other major example of the style survives in New York City in Gilbert's Isaac Fletcher residence (listed as a National Historic landmark as the Harry F. Sinclair residence), and very few other examples remain in the United States, most notably Richard Morris Hunt's Biltmore.

As a building of rare architectural distinction and associated with a nationally important family, the Warburg mansion has special significance.

Footnotes:

1. Ada Louise Huxtable, "Design Notebook," New York Times, Dec. 27, 1979, p.c-10.
2. Stephen Birmingham, Our Crowd (New York: Harper & Row, 1967), p. 286.
3. New York Times, Oct. 21, 1937, p.1.
4. New York Times, Jan. 25, 1944, and The Jewish Museum, press release (undated).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Felix Warburg Mansion

Item number 9

Page 2

New York County, N.Y.

New York. The Jewish Museum. Research Files.

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. "Architects Appendix." Upper East Side
Historic District Designation Report (LP-1051) New York, May 19, 1981.

Malone, Dumas. edit. Dictionary of American Biography. New York; Chas. Scribners
& Sons, 1936.

New York Times, Jan. 25, 1944.

C E N T R A L P A R K

EASTERN
POST ROAD

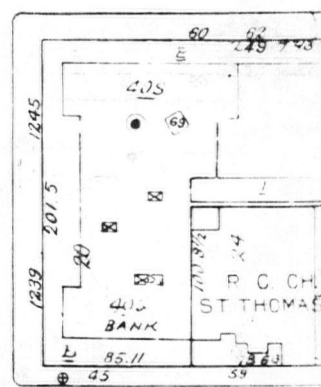
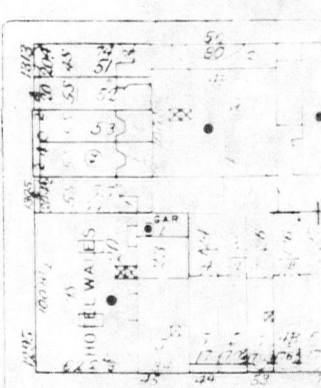
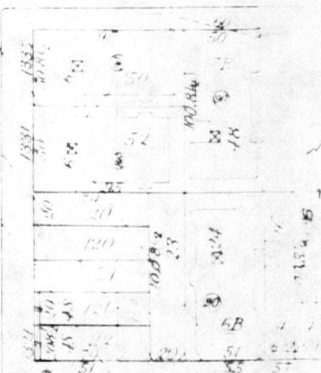
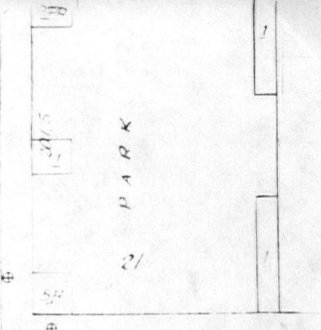
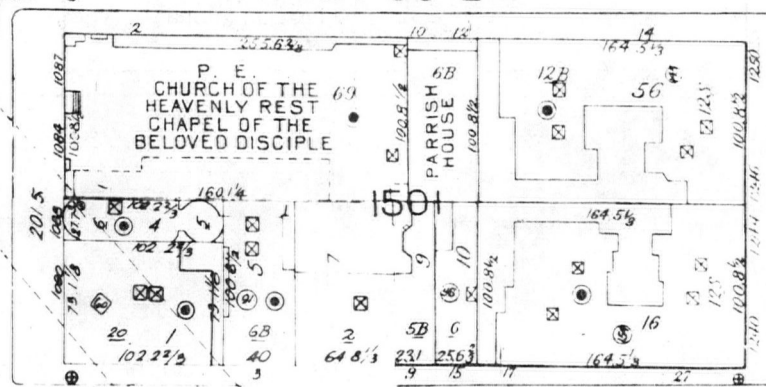
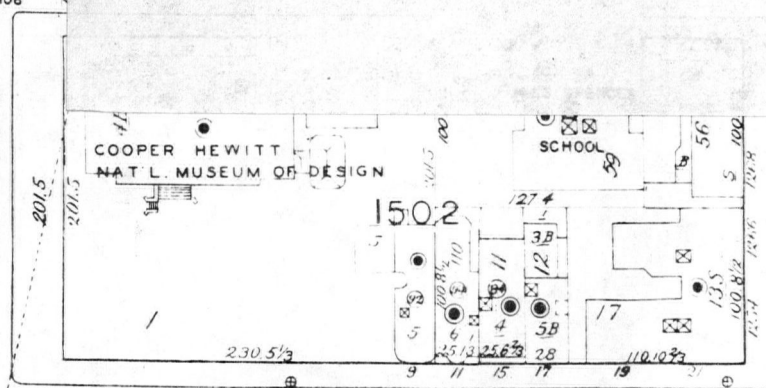
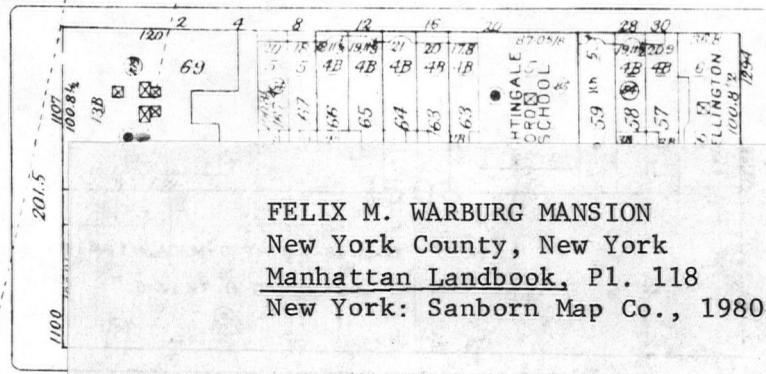
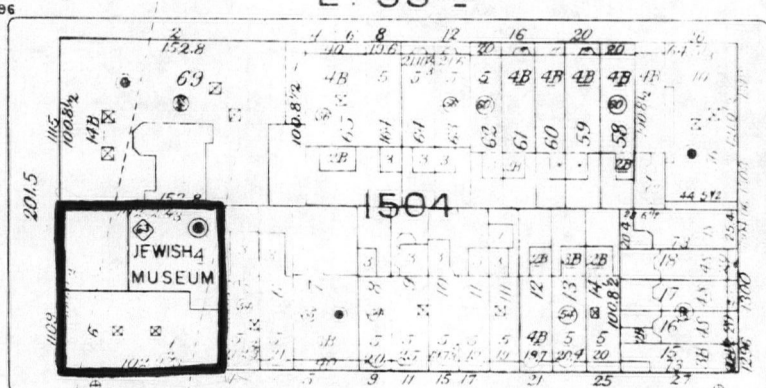
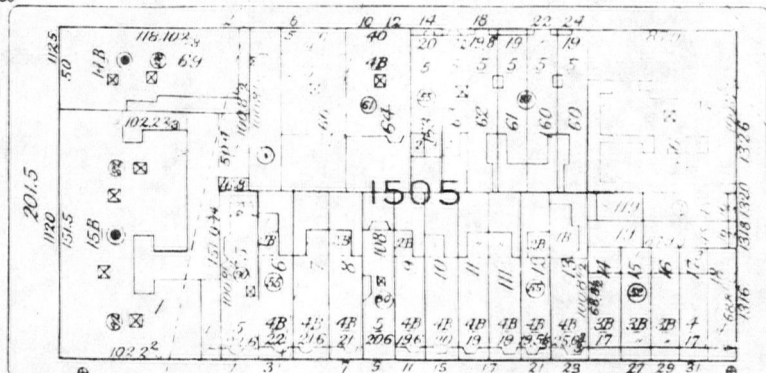
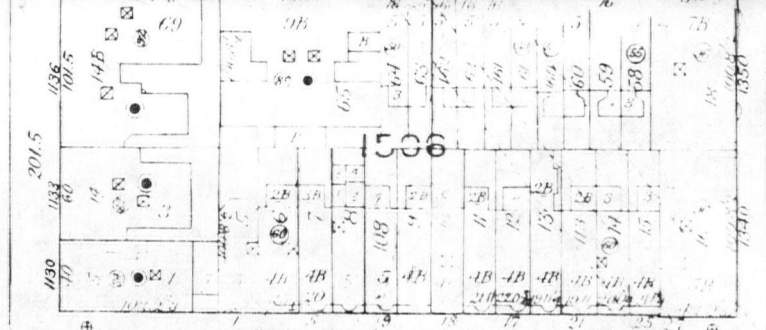
FIFTH

AVE.

MADISON

AVE.

FELIX M. WARBURG MANSION
New York County, New York
Manhattan Landbook, Pl. 118
New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1980-81



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Warburg, Felix M., Mansion
New York County
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/29/82-2649
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/1/83
Date Due: 10/29/82 4/13/82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/29/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Entered in the _____
National Register _____
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the _____
National Register _____

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
☐ 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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. Felix Warburg House
New York County: New York

Photo by:

Andrew S. Dolkart, 1981

Neg. at:

New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the southwest



2. Felix Warburg House
New York County: New York

Photo by:

Neg. at:

Andrew S. Dolkart, 1981
New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the northwest



3. Felix Warburg House
New York County: New York

Photo by: Andrew S. Dolkart, 1981
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the southeast



4. FELIX M. WARBURG MANSION
New York County, New York

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

View from the west



5. FELIX M. WARBURG MANSION
New York County, New York¹

Photo by: Carl Forster, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

Detail of roofline
View from the west



Felix M. Warburg Mansion
New York County, New York
UTM Reference
18 587970 4515240
Central Park Quadrangle

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 planetable 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 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
12° 21' 30" N
0° 42' 12" E
SCALE 1:24,000
1 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 10 15 20 KILOMETER
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 821
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

ABC
The Jewish Museum

under the auspices of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America / 1109 Fifth Avenue / New York / New York 10028 / (212) 860-1888

January 22, 1982

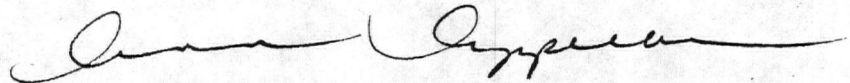
Ms. Anne Covell
Historic Preservation Field
Services Bureau
Parks, Recreation & Historic
Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

Re: National Register

Dear Ms. Covell:

The Jewish Museum has decided not to object to its nomination to the National Register. However, I would like to correct, for the record, a serious misstatement in Paragraph 7 of the Nomination Form. The condition of the Building is noted there as "excellent." In fact, the Warburg Mansion is in a deteriorating condition, with leakage through the roof, cracking of ornamentation and general building erosion. In excess of \$500,000 is needed to stem this deterioration and render the building secure.

Very truly yours,



Ann H. Appelbaum
Counsel

AHA:ct

✓ Warburg Mansion
Fifth Ave. NYC