

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 3 1982  
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1982

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 Gage & Tollner Restaurant

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 372 Fulton Street

CITY, TOWN

Brooklyn

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14

STATE

New York

CODE  
036

COUNTY  
Kings

CODE  
047

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

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NA

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Edward S. Dewey, Dewham Company, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

372 Fulton Street

CITY, TOWN

Brooklyn

VICINITY OF

New York

STATE

11201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City's Register Office, Brooklyn

STREET & NUMBER

Municipal Building

CITY, TOWN

Brooklyn

STATE

New York

11201

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Landmarks Preservation Commission (LP-0836, LP-0885)

has this property been  
determined eligible? NO

DATE

November 12, 1974, March 25, 1975 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, 20 Vesey Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York

10007

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   |   | CHECK ONE                      |                |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED | DATE <u>NA</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED |   |                                |                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |                                |                |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four-story building which houses the restaurant is located midblock on a commercial street in downtown Brooklyn and is flanked by modern commercial structures. The building occupies the entire nominated site. It dates from the mid-1870's and is basically late Italianate in design, but the unusually high, painted wooden storefront, in neo-Grec style, was probably added in 1892 when the restaurant opened at this location.<sup>1</sup> The entrance is protected by a portico with modified Doric columns. Secondary entrances set at each side of the front and a large front window are flanked by slender colonnettes with stylized foliate capitals. A continuous cornice above the ground floor is carried on closely spaced angular brackets with incised motifs on the ends. The brackets alternate with raised eight-pointed star motifs in the frieze. Through the large front window one can see the 1890's interior. A three-story brownstone front rises above the storefront. The windows with molded enframements have projecting sills carried on corbel blocks and are surmounted by individual cornices. A simple modillioned roof cornice with wide fascia crowns the whole. The side walls are non-exposed party walls, and the rear elevation is not visible. The building occupies the entire nominated site.

Within either side of the entranceway, are two bays where patrons may await seating. These bays are created by the two projecting wood-enframed windows. The ceilings of these bays are embellished by the once popular Lincrusta-Walton type of wall covering embossed in a sunburst design. The walls have swirling designs of a more classical type. This type of wall covering is used throughout the long, narrow room, which seats about 150.

The series of tall arched mirrors along three sides of the restaurant lends a sense of spaciousness to the interior, which actually measures only 25X90 feet. The dark red cherry wood trim, enframing the mirrors and providing a cornice beneath the deep cove of the ceiling, is a unifying feature for this long room. The arched mirrors along the walls rise above a wainscot at table level and are separated by dark red panels of patterned cut-velvet. These panels are crowned by wood entablatures with pulvinated friezes from which the molded wood arches of the mirrors spring. The arches have center wood blocks, simulating keystones, upon which the horizontal wood cornice which encircles the room is set. In the spandrels between the arches is a gold embossed wall covering of the Lincrusta-Walton type. The back end of the room features a wide flat-arched central mirror which is complemented by two narrow recessed mirrors set behind the entrance and exit doors to the kitchen and service area.

A recessed area for the serving bar is located about midway down the east side of the room. The paneled bar was transferred from the restaurant at 302 Fulton Street and has cabinets and a long mirror behind it. The restaurant also retains its original mahogany tables.

Gage & Tollner uses both gas and electricity for illumination. This is accomplished by means of the original combination gas-electric fixtures which were installed in 1888, when a permit was issued to the restaurant to burn gas or "the new incandescent light." These elaborate brass fixtures, with widely spread arms, are evenly spaced along the center line of the ceiling, extending from front to rear. At the end of each arm, on either side of the curvilinear central portion adorned with hollow metal oval and circular urns, there are two gas jets with flues and handsome cut-glass bowls to diffuse the light. Also, at the end of each arm set between the jets, is an incandescent light bulb. The light bulbs, which were originally bare, now have flower-like glass bowls.

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Gage &amp; Tollner

Item number 7

Page 2

Kings County, New York

1

The text of this report was taken almost in its entirety from the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Reports, Gage & Tollner (LP-0836), November, 1974, by Marjorie Pearson, and Gage & Tollner, Interior (LP-0885), March 1975, by Alan Burnham and Ellen Kramer.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input 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 mid-1870's, 1890's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gage & Tollner, one of Brooklyn's best-known restaurants, has one of the few remaining authentic Victorian interiors in the city. The restaurant had its beginnings in 1879 when Charles M. Gage opened an eating establishment at 302 Fulton Street. In 1884 Eugene Tollner joined Gage, and the restaurant was renamed Gage & Tollner. They moved the restaurant to its present location at 372 Fulton Street in 1889 in the center of downtown Brooklyn, close to the Brooklyn City Hall (now Borough Hall). Fulton Street was one of Brooklyn's main thoroughfares, leading east and south to join King's Highway, the main access route to Long Island, and west and north to the ferry terminals on the East River and the Brooklyn Bridge. The Gage & Tollner Restaurant became widely known and attracted many noteworthy patrons.

When Messrs. Gage and Tollner retired in 1911, they sold the business, with the condition that the new owners maintain the customs and traditions established by the founders. Subsequent owners have accepted the same condition, and the present managers of Gage & Tollner maintain the traditions which have characterized the restaurant for 100 years. A direct result of the intentional continuity of tradition at the restaurant is its survival as one of the few completely intact Victorian interiors in New York City. The once-popular, but now rare, Lincrusta-Walton wall covering, made of linseed oil and sawdust to resemble embossed leather, still lines the walls, and the panelling, mirrors, bar, mahogany tables, and combination gas-electric fixtures all survive intact and continue to define a completely authentic and original Victorian restaurant. The building and its interior are designated New York City Landmarks.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Gage & Tollner (LP-0836), by Marjorie Pearson  
New York: City of New York, 1974.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Gage & Tollner, Interior of Ground Floor Dining  
Room (LP-0885), by Alan Burnham and Ellen Kramer. New York: City of New York, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle name: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

A 18 5851500 45041760  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

D [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Building occupies Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 154, Lot 17, and is 26.4 feet  
by 126.8 feet, as outlined on the attached map.

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

| STATE     | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-----------|------|--------|------|
| <u>NA</u> |      |        |      |
| STATE     | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Anthony W. Robins

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Preservation Commission

STREET & NUMBER

20 Vesey St.

CITY OR TOWN

New York

contact: Anne B. Covell  
N.Y.S. Division for Historic  
Preservation 518-474-0479

DATE

February, 1981

TELEPHONE

212-566-7577

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Arvin Lehman*

TITLE

Commissioner

DATE

4/9/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Delores Byers*

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE

6/3/82

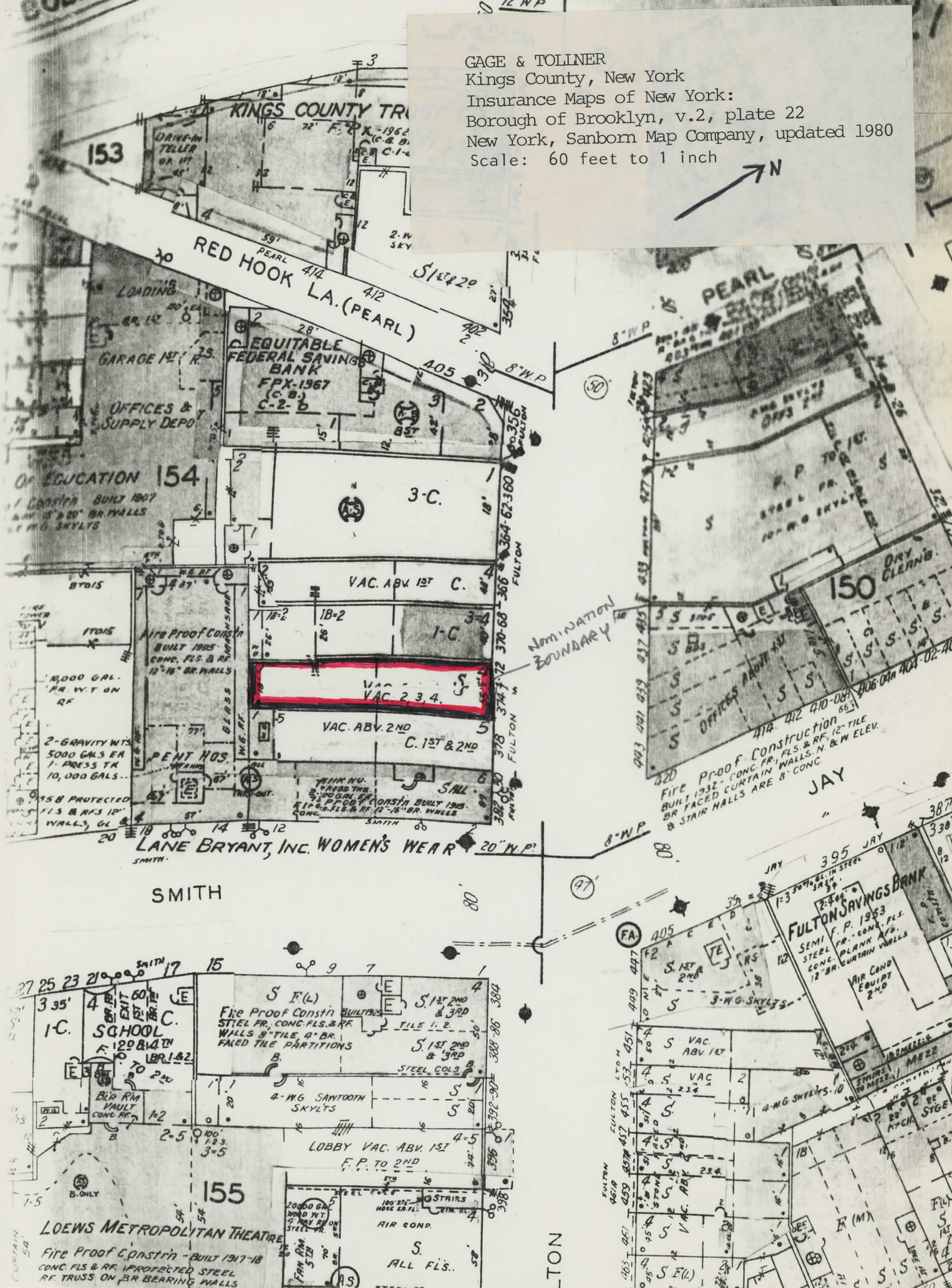
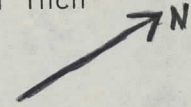
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GAGE & TOLLNER  
 Kings County, New York  
 Insurance Maps of New York:  
 Borough of Brooklyn, v.2, plate 22  
 New York, Sanborn Map Company, updated 1980  
 Scale: 60 feet to 1 inch



EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Gage & Tolliver Restaurant  
State, County: NY, Kings  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 5/3/82-1311  
Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983  
Date Due: 6/3/82 - 6/17/82

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

Action:  ACCEPT 6/3/82  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
 Entered in the National Register  
 photos   
 maps

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

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## 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

Average 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: 202 272-35

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet





KODAK SAFETY FILM

1

GAGE & TOLLNER RESTAURANT  
Kings County, New York

Photo by: Carl Forster, 1981

Neg. at: New York Landmarks  
Preservation Commission

View from the northeast



2 GAGE & TOLLNER RESTAURANT  
Kings County, New York

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

Interior



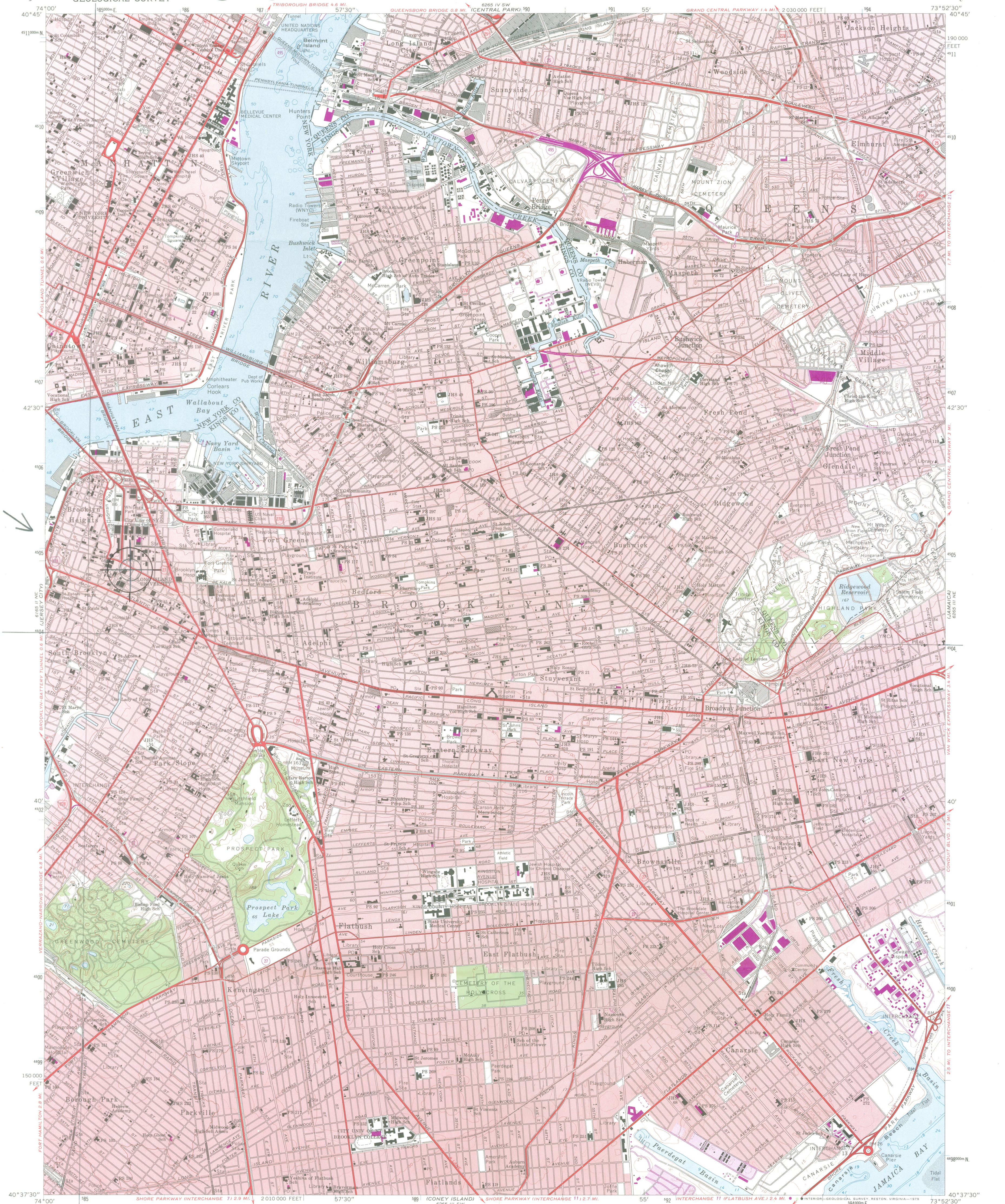
3. GAGE & TOLLNER RESTAURANT  
Kings County, New York

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

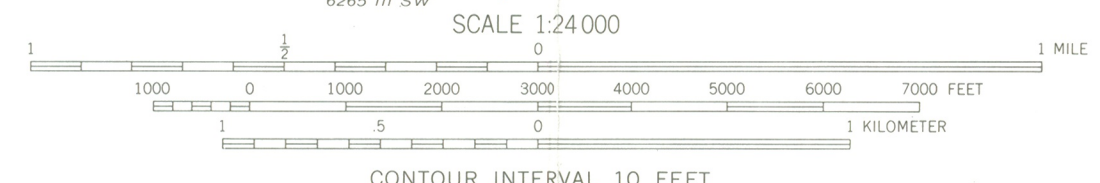
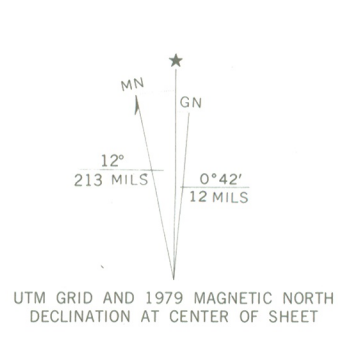
Interior, bar



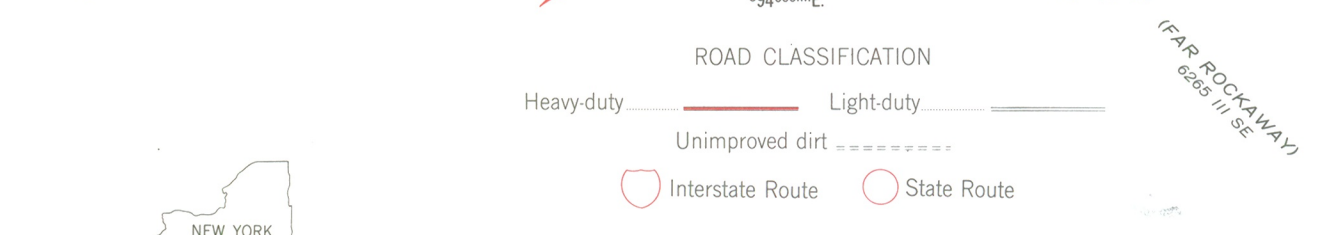
Cage & Tollner  
Kings County, New York  
UTM Reference:  
18 585500 4504760  
Brooklyn, N.Y. Quadrangle



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation  
Control by USGS, USCGS, USCE, and City of New York Board of  
Estimate and Apportionment  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1954, and from USGS Charts T-5094, T-5335, T-5454  
T-5459, T-5460, and T-8449  
Topography by planimetric surveys 1955-1956. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USGS Charts  
275 (1964), 542 (1967), and 745 (1966). This information  
is not intended for navigational purposes  
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



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 MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.2 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER  
AND 5.2 FEET IN JAMAICA BAY



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
Interstate Route (red circle) State Route (black circle)

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey  
from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

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

BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
N4037.5—W7352.5/7.5  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6265 III NW—SERIES V821