

**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 JUN 18 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Adelaide L.T. Douglas Residence

and/or common Guatemalan Mission to the United Nations

2. Location

street & number 57 Park Avenue not for publication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	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>NA</u>	☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Republic of Guatemala

street & number 405 Lexington Avenue

city, town New York vicinity of state New York 10017

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

(LP-1045)
title Landmarks Preservation Commission has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date September 11, 1979 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Landmarks Preservation Commission

city, town 20 Vesey Street, 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 Douglas residence occupies almost its entire lot on a residential section of Park Avenue. It is flanked by a church to the north and an apartment house to the south. Six stories high and faced with granite and limestone, the house rests on a rusticated base which is pierced by segmental-arched openings with bracketed keystones.¹ The original doorway has been replaced but an original molding may be seen in the vestibule. A wrought-iron fence encloses the areaway. Above the ground floor a cornice, which also serves as a balcony, sets off the main portion of the facade at the second and third stories. This cornice is supported on heavy, paired guttae-adorned modillions which in turn are linked by swags. Above, a wrought-iron railing shields the French doors at the second floor. These openings are flanked by pilasters which rise to the third floor. Carved stone panels in relief are set above the transoms over the French doors. The panels depict figures of children singing and playing musical instruments and were inspired by Quattrocento Italian Cantoria panels by Donatello and Luca Della Robbia. The casement windows at the third floor are flanked by ornate incense burners with swags and boukrania, also carved in relief, which rest on the tops of the pilasters. Wrought-iron railings shield the windows. The fourth story rises above a modillioned cornice with a grooved frieze decorated with bellflowers. This story takes the form of a colonnade with arched window openings set back from the columns. A denticulated cornice and parapet set off the slate-covered mansard roof which forms the fifth story. The roof has a decorative copper coping, and it is pierced by three copper-clad pedimented dormers. The sixth story is set back from the building line and only the parapet is visible from the street. It is also shielded by a wrought-iron railing. The south elevation is completely obscured by the adjacent apartment house while the north elevation is a plain brick wall pierced by simple window openings. The rear elevation, facing onto a small areaway, is not visible.

Although no longer in use as a residence, the house retains many of its original interior features including a stairhall with spiral staircase and a paneled drawing room (now an office) at the second story.

1. The text of this report was taken almost in its entirety from the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Report, Adelaide L.T. Douglas Residence(LP-1045), September 1979, by Marjorie Pearson.

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 1909–11 **Builder/Architect** Horace Trumbauer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This elegant residence was built in 1909–11 for the New York socialite, Mrs. Adelaide Townsend Douglas, in the Murray Hill section of New York. Designed in the French Classic style of Louis XVI by architect Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia, it is a fine example of his residential work in New York City.

Murray Hill was first developed with residences in the mid-nineteenth century. Following the opening of Lexington and Fourth Avenues through the area in 1848, rows of brownstone residences were quickly built along the side streets. Socially prominent and wealthy residents, such as A.T. Stewart and J.P. Morgan, moved into the area, concentrating their residences along Fifth and Madison Avenues. Although by the turn of the century commercial development was beginning to encroach upon Fifth Avenue, the streets to the east of Madison still remained fashionable, due in large part to the efforts of J.P. Morgan.¹ Park Avenue, south of the new Grand Central Terminal (under construction between 1903 and 1913) and north of 34th Street, was an elegant residential thoroughfare. Consequently, in 1909 Adelaide T. Douglas purchased a choice site on Park Avenue with the intention of building a fashionable Manhattan residence.²

Adelaide L. Townsend Douglas (1852–1935) was the wife of William Proctor Douglas (1842–1919), a vice-commodore of the New York Yacht Club. Following their separation in 1908, Mrs. Douglas commissioned the fashionable architect, Horace Trumbauer, to design her new Manhattan home.³

Horace Trumbauer (1868–1938), a life-long resident of Philadelphia, achieved great prominence as an architect despite his lack of formal architectural training. At the age of 16 he went to work for the Philadelphia architects George W. and W.D. Hewitt, and opened his own office in 1892. One of his important early commissions was "Lynnewood Hall" at Elkins Park, Philadelphia, for Peter A.B. Widener (1898). This led later to several other commissions from Widener including the Widener Home for Crippled Children, the Widener Office Building, the Widener Memorial Training School, all in Philadelphia; and the Widener Memorial Library at Harvard University. Among his other important Philadelphia commissions were the Free Library of Philadelphia (designed 1908, constructed 1917–27) and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (1919–1928). He also designed residences for many wealthy and socially prominent members of Philadelphia, Washington, and New York society. Those houses for New York clients were built in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island. Among them were those for James B. Duke—for whom he also planned Duke University—at 1 East 78th Street (1909–12) listed on the National Register, and for Mrs. Amory F. Carhart at 3 East 95th Street (1913–21).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property under one acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn, N.Y.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 18 586120 4511200
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 893, Lot 5, which is 25x80 feet and is outlined on the attached map.

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

state code county N/A code

state code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne B. Coveil

organization Historic Preservation Field Services date March 1981

street & number Agency Building 1, ESP

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

Chin Kellum

title Commissioner

date 6/11/82

For HCRS use only

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

Melona Byers

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/15/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Adelaide L.T. Douglas Item number 8
Residence, New York County

Page 2

In his designs for residential architecture Trumbauer favored the stylistic prototypes of seventeenth-and eighteenth-century France. Such designs tended to be somewhat more restrained and less exuberant than those favored around 1900, but they are still in the Beaux-Arts tradition. The house Trumbauer designed for Adelaide Douglas falls into this mode. Working within the restraints imposed by the standard 25-foot-wide New York City rowhouse, Trumbauer was able to create an elegant design based on the French Classic style of Louis XVI.

The variety of ornamental detail, both in stone and in wrought iron, is particularly characteristic of the Louis XVI style, and it is one of the qualities which helps to give the building its special character.

Following Mrs. Douglas' death the house was converted to apartments. Since 1979 it has housed the Guatemalan Mission to the United Nations.

1. Anita Pins, An Historic District in Murray Hill (New York: The Murray Hill Committee, Inc., 1977), p.12.
2. Section 3, Liber Deeds 143, Page 437, New York County Register's Office. Mrs. Douglas purchased her property from the Rapid Transit Subway Construction Company which had built the city's first subway line beneath Park Avenue five years earlier.
3. No contemporary published accounts of the house have been found, an unusual situation among Trumbauer's clients. Because of her marital circumstances, Mrs. Douglas may have wished to keep the house out of the architectural press.

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Continuation sheet Adelaide L.T. Douglas
Residence, New York County Item number 9

Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. New York Times, June 4, 1919, p.7; June 12, 1919, p.25; October 24, 1935, p.21.
2. Pins, Anita. An Historic District in Murray Hill. New York: The Murray Hill Committee, Inc., 1977.
3. "Trumbauer, Horace." Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1958. Supplement 2, ~~pp. 667-668~~.
4. "Trumbauer, Hoarce." The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, vol. 28, pp.440-441.

LL FARM

John Murray

61

PARK

LEXINGTON

Jas. Quackenbush
Map No. 48

Lib. 428 P. 639
" 431 P. 189 Map No. 661

ALL property
zone's value
restricted
the Street

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Douglas, Adelaide L. T., House, New York County,
NEW YORK,

Working No. 4/18/82-1792

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 7/15/82 - 8/2/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/15/82
Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National 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. 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 _____ 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 _____

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. ADELAIDE L.T. DOUGLAS RESIDENCE
New York County, New York

Photo by: Sarah Latham, 1979
Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from the west



2. ADELAIDE L.T. DOUGLAS RESIDENCE
New York County, New York

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

Staircase in stairhall



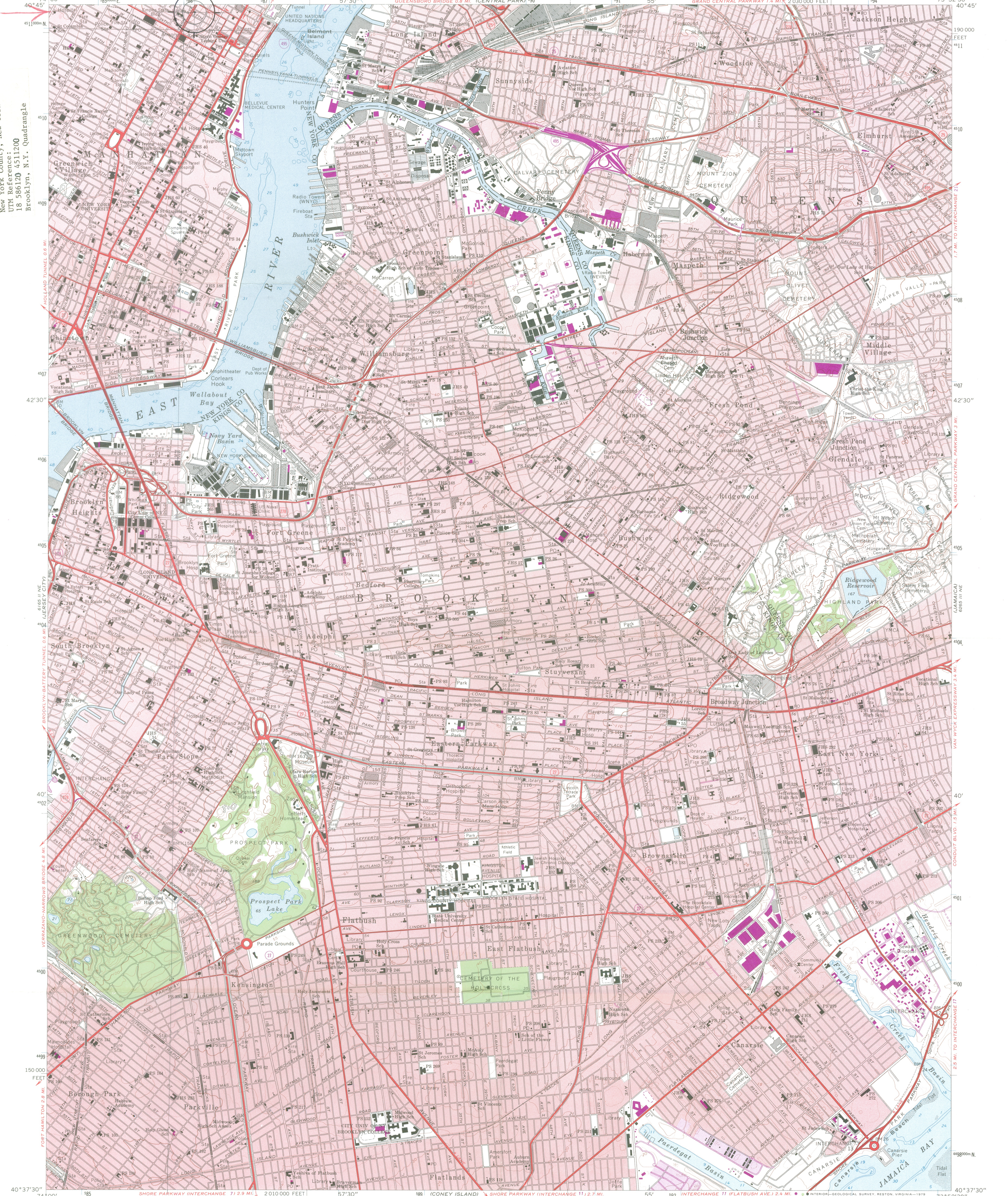
3. ADELAIDE L.T. DOUGLAS RESIDENCE
New York County, New York

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

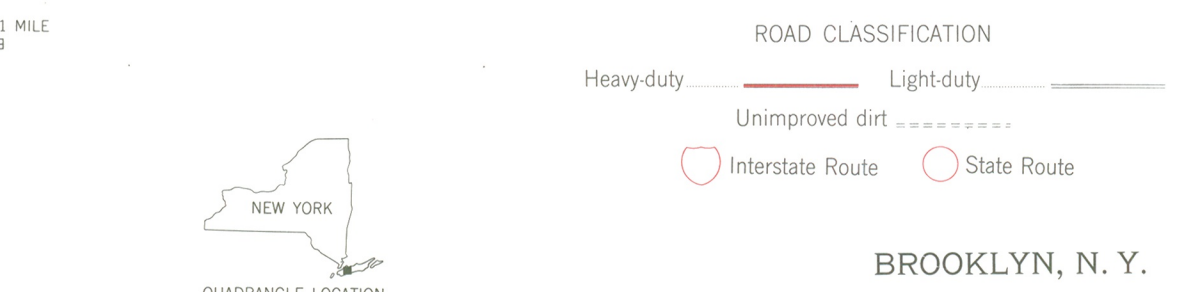
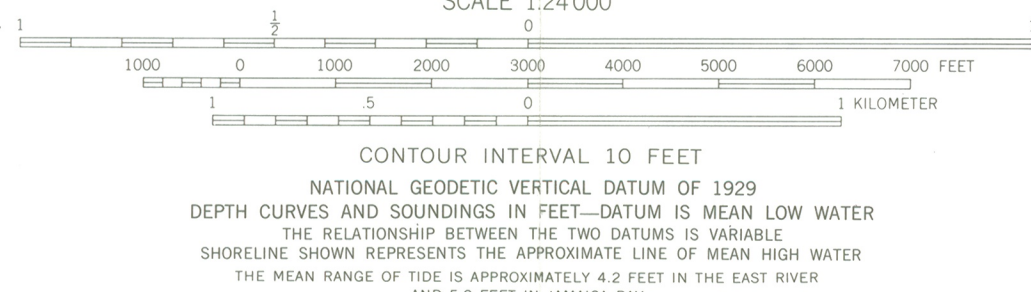
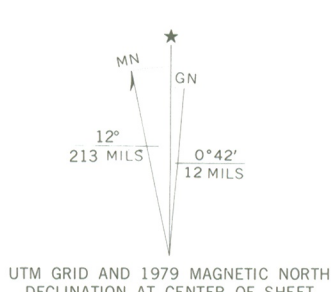
Stairhall looking up



Adelaide L.T. Douglas Residence
New York County, New York
UTM Reference:
18 586120 4511200
Brooklyn, N.Y. Quadrangle



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation
Control by USGS, USACE, and City of New York Board of
Estimate and Apportionment
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1954, and from US&GS 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 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from US&GS 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



BROOKLYN, N. Y.

N4037.5—W7352.5/7.5

1967
PHOTOGRAPHED 1979
AMS 6265 III NW—SERIES V821

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