

**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 MAY 3 1982
date entered
JUN 3 1982

1. Name

historic The Lamb's Club

and/or common Church of the Nazarene

2. Location

street & number 128 West 44th Street not for publication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
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☒ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name New York District Advisory Board, Church of the Nazarene, Dallas Mucci, District Suprt.

street & number 150 East 62nd Street

city, town New York vicinity of state New York 10021

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 Historic Designation Report
LP-0859

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date September 24, 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records N.Y.C. Landmarks Preservation Commission

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 Lamb's Club building is located near Times Square in the heart of Manhattan's theatre district. The structure occupies the whole of its double lot (76 feet wide by 100 feet deep) and abuts a hotel on the east side and a commercial building on the west. The only visible elevation is the front (north) wall. The original six-story clubhouse was designed in the neo-Classical style by Stanford White of McKim, Mead & White and constructed in 1904-05. A western extension, added in 1915 by George A. Freeman, matched the original facade and doubled the width of the building to six bays. Symmetrically massed, the clubhouse is constructed of brick, with a smooth-faced marble ground floor, terra-cotta trim, and stone quoins. Each of the twin facades has a ground floor entrance framed by engaged Doric columns and full entablature and located between multi-paned windows with simple crowning keystones and decorative grilles. A Greek fret band course marks the division between the basement and the upper stories.

At the second story, each side of the facade is articulated by three pairs of French windows with transoms, opening onto wrought-iron balconies. The columns and foliate terra-cotta corner pilasters support a full entablature with a foliate frieze that traverses the full width of the building. A large plaque appears on the center of the facade. The third story is pierced on each side by recessed, arched double-hung windows that are cleanly cut into the wall. Recessed panels create pseudo piers between the windows, which are trimmed with terra-cotta impost blocks and paneled keystones. Carved lamb's heads project from the arch spandrels. The fourth story windows are capped by splayed terra-cotta lintels with paneled keystones capped by lamb's heads. A large plaque crowned by a cartouche flanked by lambs marks the center of the building between the third and fourth stories. A molded terra-cotta string course runs above, where six simple windows light the fifth story. A modillioned cornice surmounts the fifth floor, and a classical attic with cornice above the sixth floor is crowned by a stone roof balustrade.

The interior of the Lambs Club building retains much of its original neo-Federal detail. The second-story rooms, well-lit by the expanse of French windows, are finished with fluted Ionic pilasters, paneled beams, and a denticulated mantel decorated with classical swags. The third story theatre has a richly paneled stage and loge.

In addition to the 1915 extension, alterations to the original exterior include the removal of a cast-iron fence at street level, the replacement of the central wall plaques and the crowning balustrade, and the removal of the cornice modillions and stone balustrade at sixth-floor level.

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/ humanitarian
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☒ theater
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ transportation
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ other (specify)
		☐ invention		

Specific dates 1904–1905

Builder/Architect Stanford White of McKim, Mead & White

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lambs Club building is significant as the site where the staging of excellent theatrical productions was a long tradition, making an important cultural contribution to New York as the city's foremost theatrical club. For over seventy years, the Lambs Club, located in the heart of the city's famed theatre district, provided a convenient and attractive meeting place for actors and musicians. Designed in 1904 by Stanford White, the structure is also one of New York's best examples of the neo-Colonial style. Based on a romantic recollection of early American architecture, the style enjoyed immense popularity in New York during the early twentieth century. The clubhouse has a particularly interesting architectural history as it was doubled in size by the addition of a twin facade in 1915 by architect George Freeman. Its superb interiors include a private theatre on the third floor and handsome reception rooms distinguished by fine neo-Federal detail. The clubhouse originally contained a library, dining and lounge rooms, private living rooms, grillroom, and a bar.

The Lambs was founded in 1874 by a small group which included several members of the Wallack Theatre Company for the "social intercourse of members of the dramatic and musical professions with men of the world, and the giving of musical entertainments for mutual amusement and instruction."¹ Henry J. Montague, one of the founders, had belonged to a similar club in London named the Lambs (in honor of Charles and Mary Lamb, who had held weekly open house for theatre people) and suggested the name for the New York group. The club was formally incorporated under New York state law on May 10, 1877. Rented social halls in the vicinity of Union Square served as headquarters for the organization for a number of years. The meeting place was known as the Fold, the President and vice president were called the Shepherd and the Boy, and the club's annual outings were called washings or shearings. The club became well-known in New York City for its public and private Gambols, satirical theatrical revues, which began in 1888. Members also presented many plays which later achieved popular success on Broadway.

The Lambs moved into a building at 70 West 36th Street in 1897 to which alterations were made by Stanford White. The club soon outgrew these quarters and began to make plans for a new building. The commission was given to the prestigious firm of McKim, Mead & White, all of whom were members of the Lambs, and the design is largely attributed to Stanford White.

In 1915, George Freeman, a Stamford, Connecticut architect, doubled the size of the building, matching the original facade while maintaining the integrity of White's design. Freeman preserved and reproduced almost all of the original details, including the terra-cotta lambs' heads. The classically inspired details such as the graceful entrances designed in the Doric order, and the slender Ionic columns placed at second-story level interspersed with iron balconies to create a "loggia" effect, exhibit the building's neo-Colonial design quality. Since 1974 the building has been owned and occupied by the Church of the Nazarene.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Lambs Club Historic Designation Report.
New York: Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1
Quadrangle name Central Park, N.Y. - N.J.

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A

1	1	8
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5	8	1	5
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6	1	6	1	0
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4	1	5	1	1	2
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0	1	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The building occupies Tax Map Block 996, lot 46. It measures seventy-six feet, three inches on the north and south sides, and one hundred feet, five inches on the east and west sides. It occupies all of its city lot, and the only visible elevation is the north wall that fronts the street (as shown outlined on attached map).

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

NA

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Carley

contact: Anne B. Covell
NYS Div. for Historic Preservation
(518) 474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date February 13, 1981

street & number 20 Vesey St. telephone 212-566-7577

city or town New York 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

Orin Lehman

title Commissioner

date

4/9/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

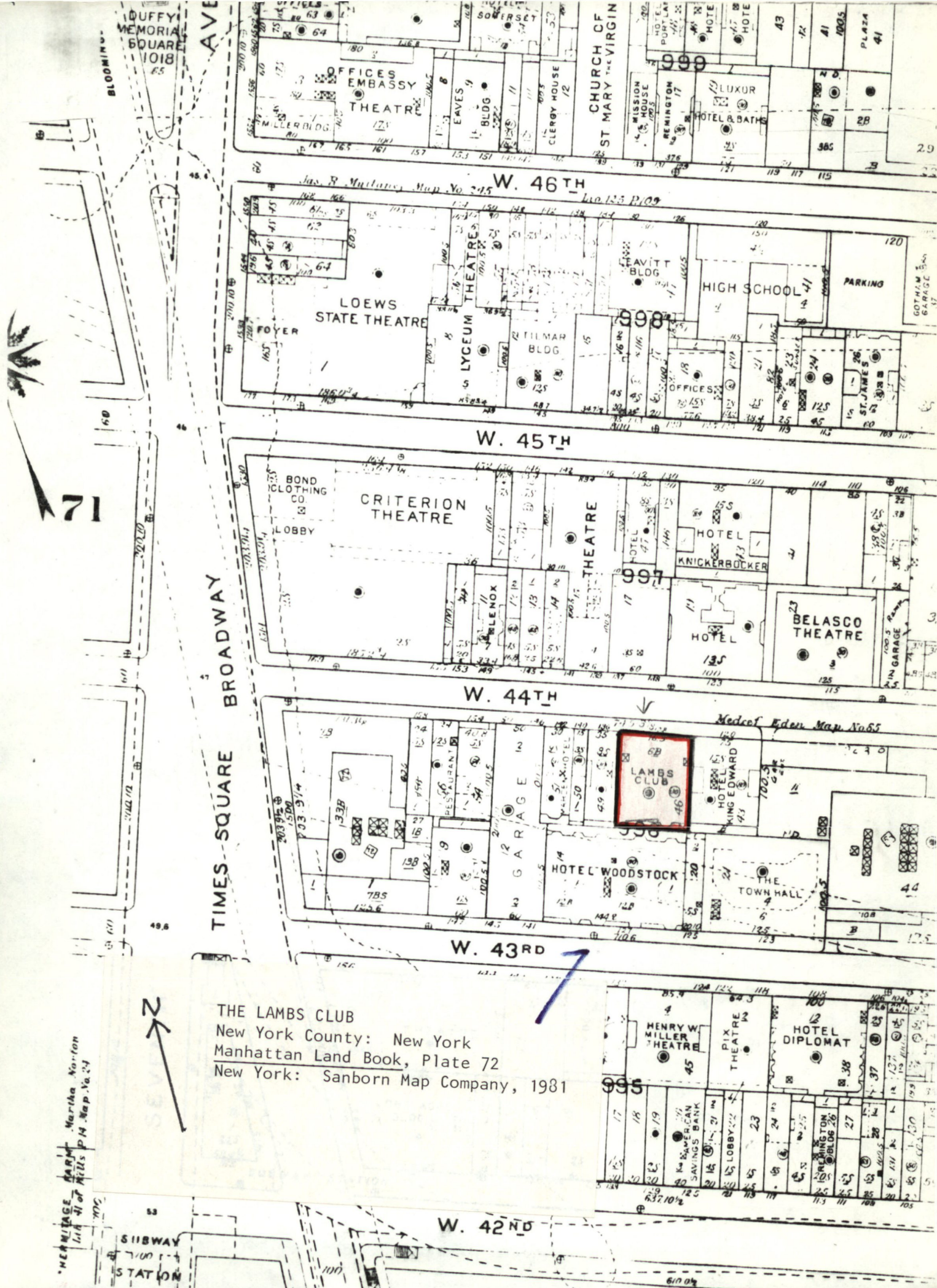
6/3/82

for *Albion Dyer*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



THE LAMBS CLUB
New York County: New York
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 72
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1981

*HERMITAGE PARK
Martha Norton
41 of Mills P.H. Map No. 24

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Lamb's Club
State, County: NY, New York
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 5/3/82-1305
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
Entered in the ☐ RETURN _____
National Register ☐ REJECT _____
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. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ altered

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

Address 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: 202 272-3

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1. LAMB'S CLUB

New York County, New York

Photo by: Steven Senigo, 1980

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from northeast



2. LAMB'S CLUB

New York County, New York

Photo by: Steven Senigo, 1980

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

View from north



3. LAMB'S CLUB

New York County, New York

Photo by: Steven Senigo, 1980

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

Interior: theater, view from stage



4. LAMB'S CLUB

New York County, New York

Photo by: Steven Senigo, 1980

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

Interior: theater, view from stage



5. LAMB'S CLUB

New York County, New York

Photo by: Steven Senigo, 1980

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

Interior: theater, view from audi-
torium



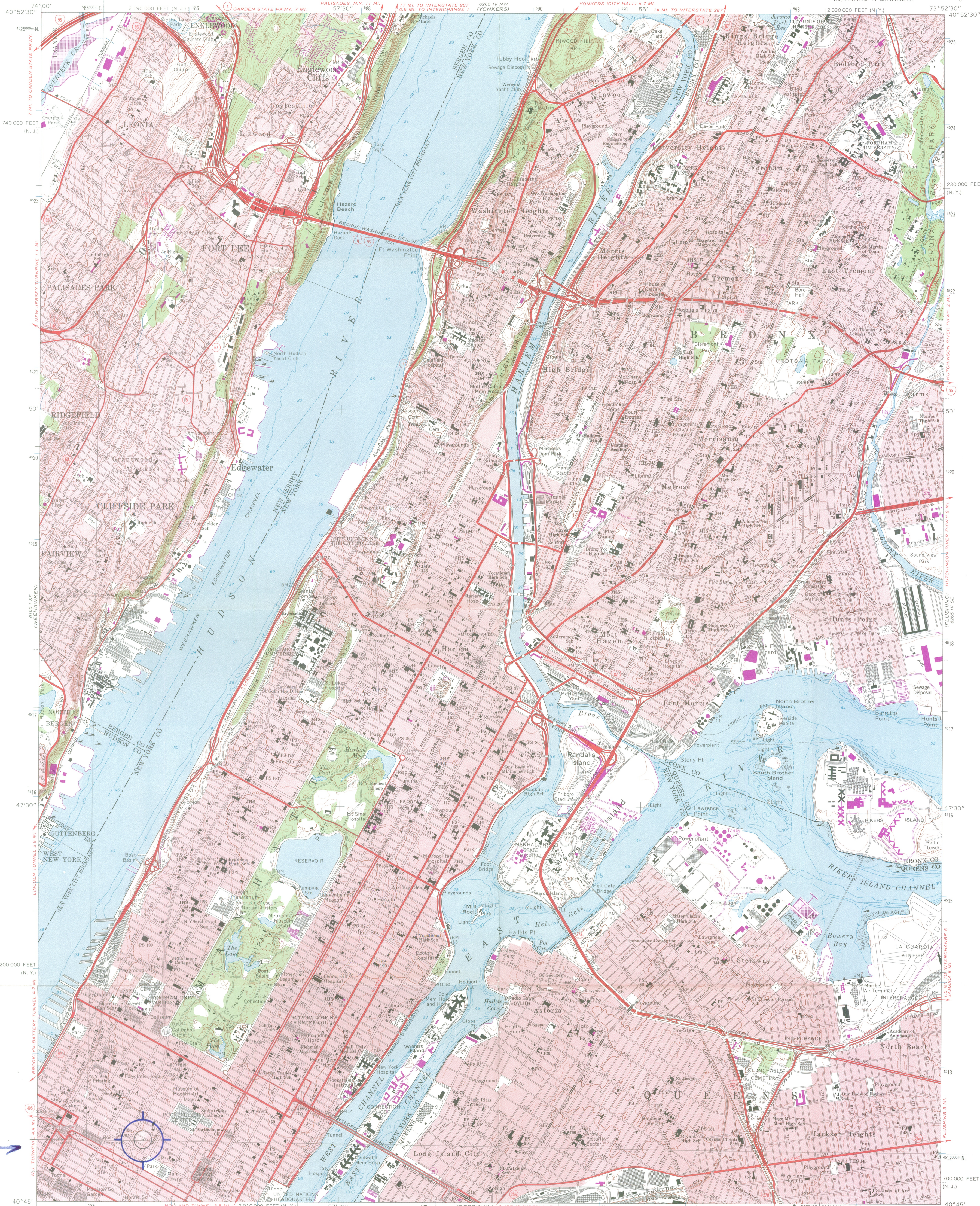
6. LAMB'S CLUB

New York County, New York

Photo by: Steven Senigo, 1980

Neg. at: New York Landmarks
Preservation Commission

Interior: Front room, second story



The Lamb's Club
New York County, New York
UTM Reference:
18 585660 4512010
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

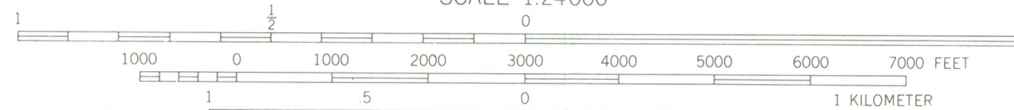
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS Charts T-4567,
T-5089, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5458,
and T-5778. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1954 and planimetric surveys 1956

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



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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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 7821

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 inclusions within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Lamb's Club