

**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 APR 25 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic Barbara Rutherford Hatch House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 153 East 63rd Street not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of congressional district

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> X </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> N/A	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ferruccio diCori, M.D.

street & number 153 East 63rd Street

city, town New York City 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 City vicinity of state New York 10007

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Landmarks Preservation Commission,
title (LP-0943)

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date January 11, 1977 federal state county X local

depository for survey records Landmarks Preservation Commission, 20 Vesey St.

city, town New York City vicinity of state New York 10007

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Barbara Rutherford Hatch residence is three stories high and is of gray stucco with a low red tile roof.¹ At the first floor a tall elegant wrought-iron fence encloses the areaway in front of the house. Two small windows with ornate iron grilles are set between two doorways. The main round-arched entrance at the left has a stone enframingent with carved brackets which support the little balcony of the French window above. This window forms a visual unit with the door below and is set behind an iron railing and crowned by a very handsome broken-arch pediment. The richness of these combined elements contrasts effectively with the broad expanses of stuccoed wall and with the simple framing of the windows at the first and second stories. The third story is separated from those below it by a band course which serves as a sill for the three small windows placed directly under the overhang of the tile roof. These windows are evenly spaced, unlike the asymmetrical disposition of the windows below.

The Hatch residence is an eclectic design, combining elements of Spanish and Italian Renaissance styles. The stucco walls, the red tile roof and the ornate iron railings and grilles are all traditional elements found in the architecture of Mediterranean countries, while the handsome pedimented enframingent of the main entrance and window above it are derived from High Renaissance prototypes. The house is U-shaped in plan, with the two main wings parallel to the street. This allows for a rather spacious interior courtyard--a rare feature in New York town-houses--which is also based on Mediterranean prototypes. The Spanish Colonial style, with which the style of the Hatch house has much in common, was very popular in the West in the early 1910s. Sterner's design for this house is a rather unusual adaptation of the Spanish Colonial to a sophisticated urban setting.

Interior: front entrance foyers with trompe-l'oeil frescos and sitting room
used as consultation room by owner/psychiatrist
front second floor--bedrooms
rear ground floor--living room
rear second floor--dining room/salon
rear third floor--bedroom

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1917–19 **Builder/Architect** Frederick J. Sterner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barbara Rutherford Hatch residence, located on East 63rd Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, is a distinctive example of townhouse design from the period immediately following the First World War. It was commissioned by Barbara Rutherford Hatch, a recently married young New York socialite, and designed by Frederick J. Sterner, an architect who had become well known for his fashionable remodeling of 19th-century New York townhouses. Sterner created a new townhouse for Mrs. Hatch which contrasts with its older traditional brownstone neighbors and which, in 1917, must have seemed quite "modern." In addition, the residence has been the home of several prominent New Yorkers. Today, this handsome structure, with its red tile roof and restrained stucco facade, still commands attention, while at the same time it harmonizes gracefully with its surroundings.

In moving to 153 East 63rd Street, Mrs. Hatch was choosing an address which New York society then considered a bit "too far east." Her mother, Mrs. W.K. Vanderbilt, may have influenced her daughter's decision, since Mrs. Vanderbilt, at the death of her husband, had sold her great Fifth Avenue mansion and caused a sensation by moving to Sutton Place, which at that time was far from being a fashionable part of town. Barbara Rutherford was married in 1916 to Cyril Hatch, a clubman and leader of Newport's social set. Their marriage ended in divorce four years later, and the 63rd Street townhouse then passed into the possession of Charles B. Dillingham, one in a series of illustrious owners.

Charles B. Dillingham (1868–1934) was a prominent figure in the Broadway Theater. He began his career as a reporter and critic and later became a theatrical agent who managed many of the stage's great stars. Among them were Irene Castle, Beatrice Lilly, Fred Stone, and Maxine Elliot. He was for many years in partnership with Florenz Ziegfeld and A. L. Erlanger and, as an owner of the Globe Theater as well as a producer, he was responsible for the staging of over 200 plays and musical comedies, including "The Red Mill" and "The Old Town." In 1914 he took over the Hippodrome from the Schuberts and there presented everything from a special appearance by Pavlova to ice skating contests. He was married twice and lived in the East 63rd Street house with his second wife from 1921 to 1924, when the marriage ended in divorce.² The house was then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lanier Lawrance.

Charles Lanier Lawrance (1882–1950) was a graduate of Yale and of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He became interested in aeronautical engineering in 1915 and during the First World War he conducted aeronautical research for the U.S. Navy. After the war he founded the Lawrance Aero Engine Corporation, which later merged with the Wright Aeronautical Corporation. In the 1930s he organized the Lawrance Engineering and Research Corporation of which he was president until 1944. Lawrance invented the air-cooled Wright Whirlwind Engine which made the

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hamlin, Talbot. The American Spirit in Architecture. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1926.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Central Park

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	8	7	2	8	0	4	5	1	2	9	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1398, Lot 27 and is approximately 100' by 32' in size. As outlined on the attached map.

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

state	code	county	code
			NA

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Agency Building I, Empire State Plaza date 8/82

street & number _____ 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 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

Albert E. Caccese

title Deputy Commissioner and Counsel

date 4/8/83

For HCRS use only

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

Roman Van Donge
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/9/83

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 HCRS use only

received

date entered

Barbara Rutherford Hatch House

Continuation sheet New York County, N.Y.

Item number 8

Page 2

first long-distance flights possible. The first of these flights which used the Whirlwind Engine was Admiral Byrd's expedition to the North Pole in 1926. When Charles Lindbergh made his famous flight to Paris in 1927, the "Spirit of St. Louis" was powered by the Lawrance engine, as were the planes of Amelia Earhart, Frank Hawks and Kingsfield Smith. Lawrance was acclaimed as a pioneer aviation engineer and received numerous honorary degrees and awards.

In 1935 the Lawrance family sold the house and moved next door to No. 151 East 63rd Street, which had also been designed by Sterner. A lawyer, apparently acting for Mrs. W.K. Vanderbilt, took title to No. 153; Barbara Hatch had married

Mr. Winfield J. Nichols, and perhaps her mother intended the house as a New York residence for her daughter.

In any event, by 1940, both mother and daughter had died, and the house was eventually sold to Rose Louise Novick, better known as Gypsy Rose Lee.

Gypsy Rose Lee (1914-1970), the well-known entertainer, began her rise to fame as a child star in Vaudeville. At 15, under the tutelage of Tessie the Tassel Twirler, she became a burlesque star and soon after came to New York where she was a great success, appearing first on burlesque stages, then in Florenz Ziegfeld's "Follies" where she acquired her stage name. She later appeared in Broadway musicals, such as "Star and Garter" of 1942. Gypsy also appeared in films, among them "The Belle of the Yukon," and wrote several books including The G-String Murders and Gypsy, a memoir which later was adapted to the stage where it was a hit Broadway musical. In her early years in New York, Gypsy was befriended by Walter Winchell and his circle, and later she was taken up by New York society. According to the New York Times, "Becoming fashionable, she operated a salon in a 26-room house (it had seven baths and a marble living room floor) on East 63rd Street."³ The house was elaborately decorated; trompe l'oeil paintings adorn the walls, the initials "GRL" in gold ornament every door. To the credit of the present owner, Dr. Ferruccio di Cori, much of this fanciful and charming decor has been maintained.

The noted architectural historian Talbot Hamlin has praised the individuality of the Hatch house as well as its "true dramatic romance."⁴ Much of the work of the architect Frederick J. Sterner (1862-1931) displayed this interest in the romantic and picturesque--whether the commission be for a mansion near Pike's Peak, Colorado, or a townhouse in Manhattan. Sterner was a native of England who came to this country in the 1870s. He settled in Denver, Colorado, where, in partnership with Ernest Varian, and later George H. Williamson, he practiced architecture for nearly thirty years. Among his important commissions were the Denver University and Athletic Clubs, the Antlers Hotel and a castellated mansion called "Glen Eyrie" both in Colorado Springs, and the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs. In 1909 Sterner moved to New York where he received many commissions for the remodelling of townhouses. His designs often included charming little "Italian" gardens and the addition of picturesque details to the facades, such as Spanish patterned tiles and delicate iron railings. Many of his clients were artists, among them George Bellows and Robert Chanler. He remodeled several townhouses on "Beauty Row," East 19th Street, within the Gramercy Park Historic District. He

(Continued)

**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

Barbara Rutherford Hatch House

Continuation sheet New York County, N.Y.

Item number 8

Page 3

designed his own house at No. 139 East 19th Street. Like the Hatch residence, it has a tile roof and shows the influence of Spanish prototypes. Sterner later moved uptown to 154 East 63rd Street, which he remodeled, across the street from the Hatch House. At about the same time he also remodeled the houses at No. 151 and No. 152 East 63rd Street, creating a small enclave much as he had done several years earlier on East 19th Street.

¹The text of this report was taken almost in its entirety from the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Report, The Barbara Rutherford Hatch Residence (LP-0943), January 11, 1977, by Nancy Goeschel.

²New York Times, August 31, 1934, 17:1 (Obituary).

³New York Times, April 28, 1970, 41:1 (Obituary).

⁴Talbot Hamlin, The American Spirit in Architecture (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1926), p. 278.

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

Barbara Rutherford Hatch House

Continuation sheet New York County, N.Y.

Item number 9

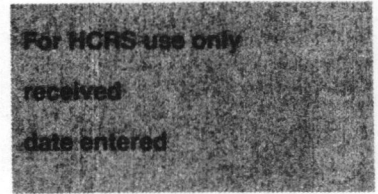
Page 2

Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Barbara Rutherford Hatch Residence Designation Report (LP-0943), by Nancy Goeschel. New York: City of New York, 1977.

New York Times. August 31, 1934, 17:1 (Obituary); April 28, 1970, 41:1 (Obituary).

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

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



Barbara Rutherford Hatch House

Continuation sheet

New York County, NY

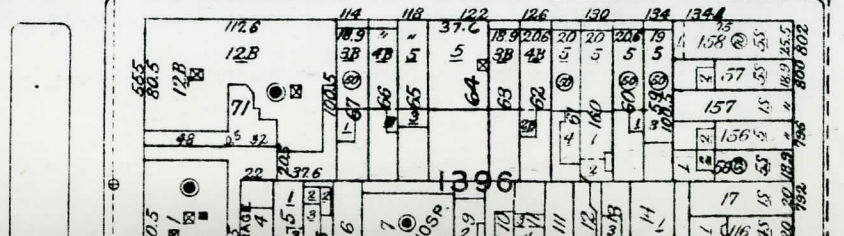
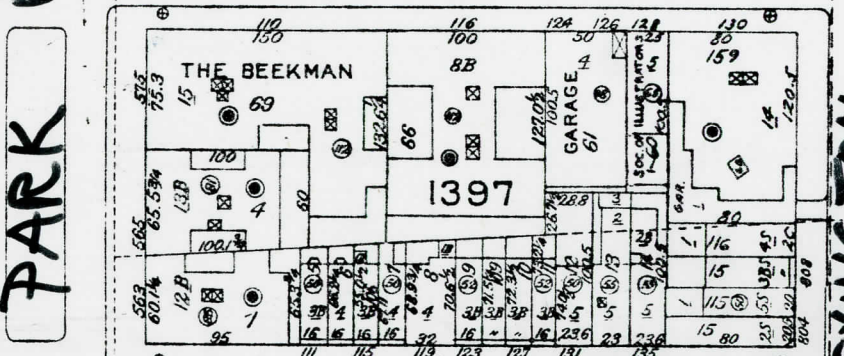
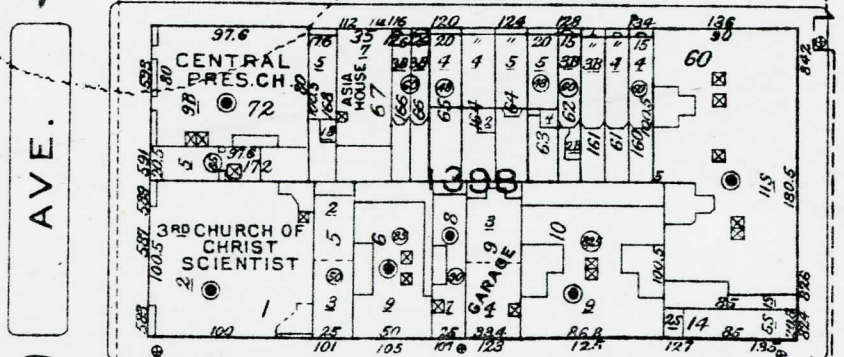
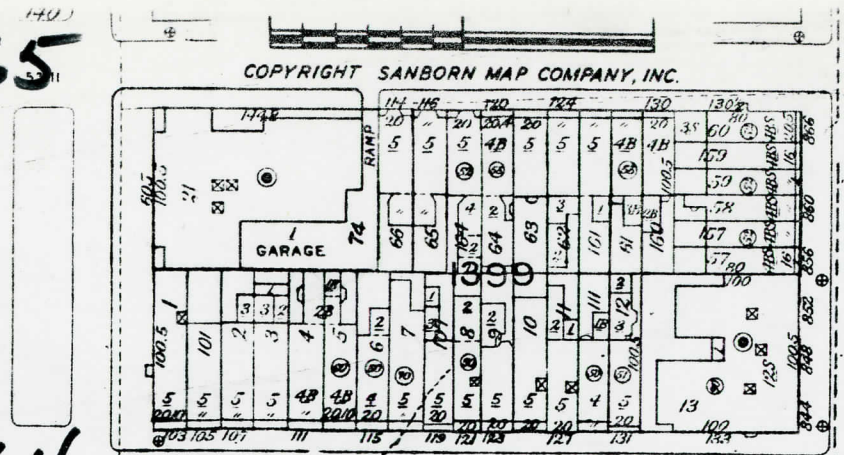
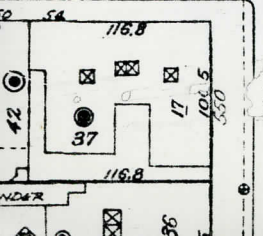
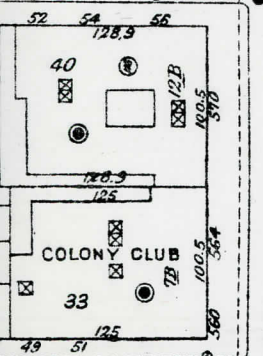
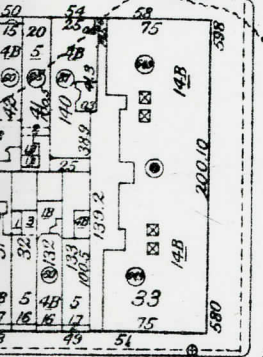
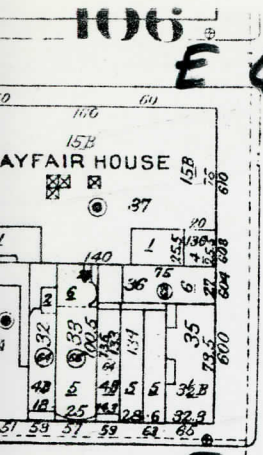
Item number

11

Page 2

Form Prepared By:

James T. Dillon
Landmarks Preservation Commission
20 Vesey St.
New York, NY 10007
211-566-7577



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Hatch, Barbara Rutherford, House
New York County
NEW YORK

Working No. 4/25/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/84
Date Due: 5/26/83 - 6/9/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/9/83
 RETURN
 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 C, B
Reviewer Mar Dwyer
Discipline A-11
Date 6-9-83
 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

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

Associations under criterion B are weak but C is adequate due to unique qualities of the house. All of the individuals have not been shown to have significant association with the house.

~~One~~ of the people associated with the house falls within the 50 year criterion consideration and therefore cannot be justified as being significant.

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. Barbara Rutherford Hatch House

153 E. 63rd Street

New York, N. Y. *County*

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

South Facade.



2. Barbara Rutherford Hatch House
153 E. 63rd Street

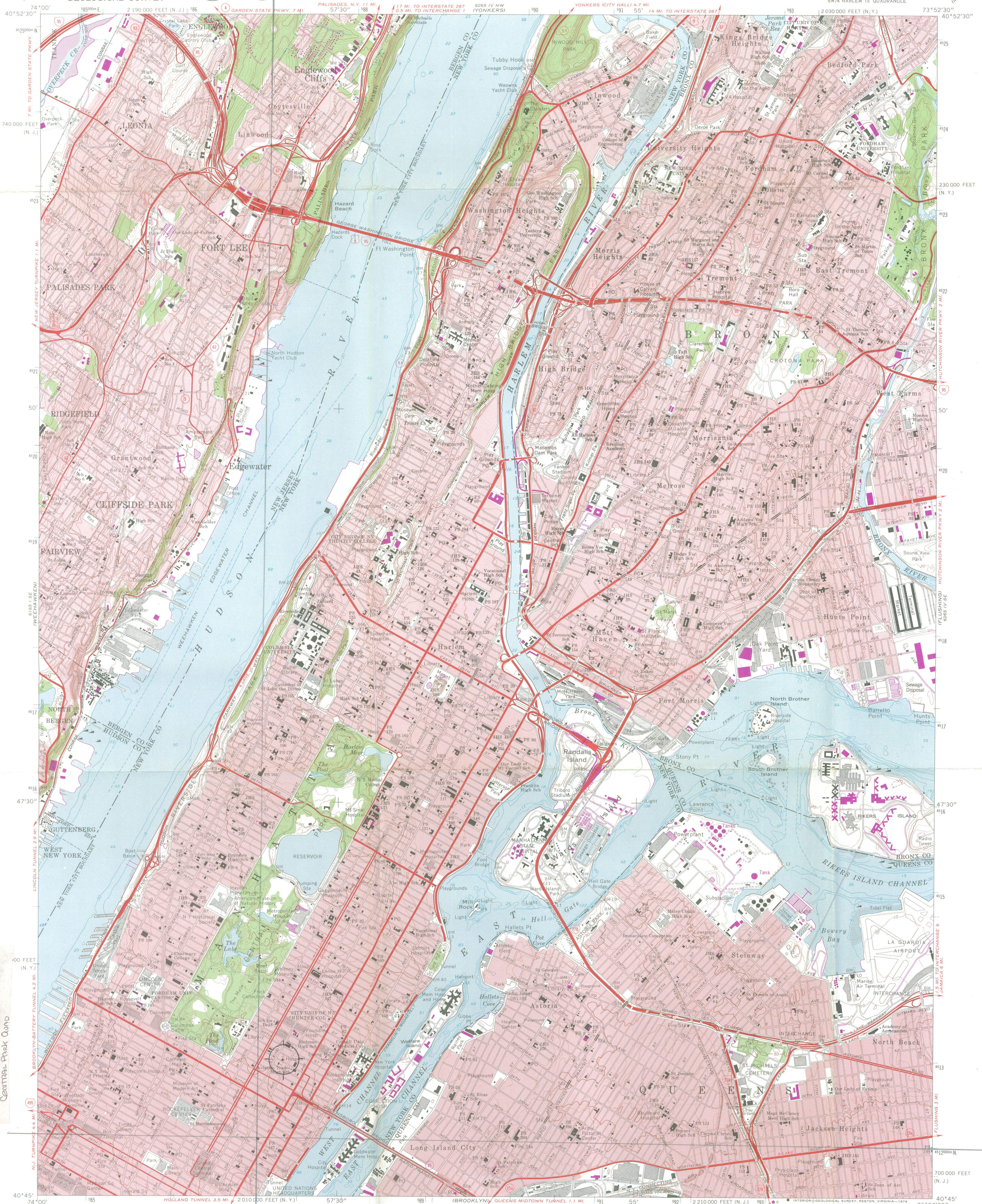
New York, N. Y. *County*
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

View from southwest.

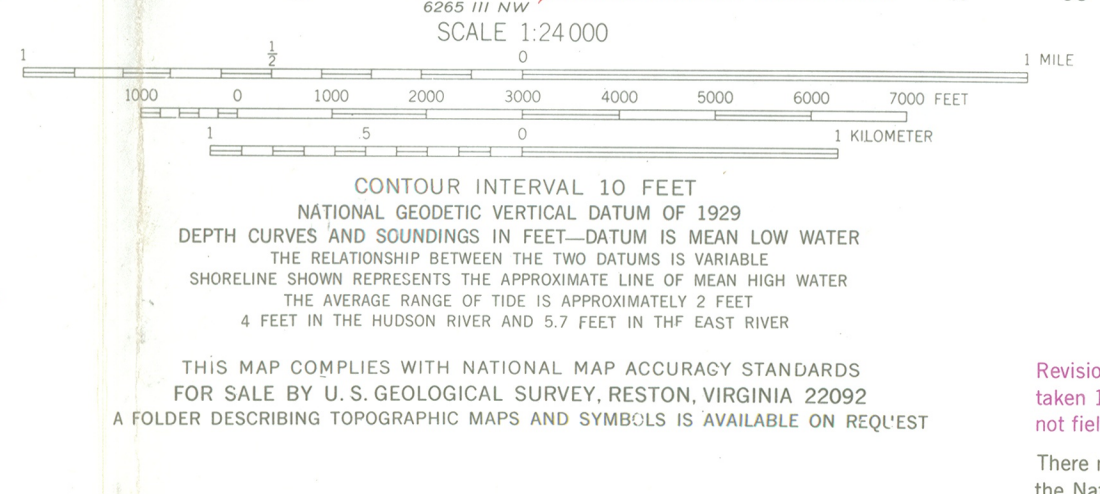


- W
3. Barbara Rutherford Hatch House
153 E. 63rd Street
New York, N. Y. *County*
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks
Preservation Commission.
Dining Room.



Barbara Rutherford Hatch House
133 E. 63rd Street
New York County
UTM Reference: 18/587280/4512910
Central Park Quad

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 planimetric surveys 1956.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1956. Field checked 1966
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 226, 274, 745,
746, and 747 (1956). 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



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

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

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 V821