

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 25 1983  
DATE ENTERED

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  
Fleming Smith Warehouse  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
451-453 Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN  
New York  
STATE  
New York  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
036  
COUNTY  
New York  
CODE  
061  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Washington B. C. Studio Corp. (Co-op Tenants-Princ)  
c/o Jacques Capsouto c/o Shej Restaurant Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER  
451 Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN  
New York  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
New York  
10013

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
New York County Register's Office, Surrogate's Court  
STREET & NUMBER  
31 Chambers Street  
CITY, TOWN  
New York  
STATE  
New York  
10007

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LP-0987)  
DATE  
March 14, 1978  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
20 Vesey St.  
CITY, TOWN  
New York  
STATE  
New York  
10007  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 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"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Fleming Smith Warehouse stands on the southeast corner of Washington and Watts Streets in the warehouse district on the lower west side of Manhattan. Six stories in height, this rectangular building has a first floor faced with rusticated, rock-faced, grey granite and red sandstone, and upper stories of yellow brick with dark red brick trim presenting a fine variety of textures and colors. However, it is the silhouette of its roofline, with four main stepped Flemish fractables and four unique projecting gabled dormers wearing conical copper helmets, which gives the building its particular architectural character. Decorative iron metalwork, including tie rod washers, a five-balcony fire escape on the north, roof brackets, and the markings "1891 / FS" on the west gable, further enhance the structure.

The Washington Street facade is three bays wide with a raised loading dock leading to three wide warehouse doors on the ground level. A later addition is a suspended rolled metal canopy over the main loading area. The main facade of the building faces Watts Street and is five bays wide. It has details similar to the Washington Street facade except for a central pedestrian entrance and rectangular windows on the ground level. The second and third stories of both facades are joined in each bay by a segmental arch, detailed in red brick quoins and voussoirs, which frames the two levels of triple windows. The fourth story has triple windows in each bay grouped beneath brick flat arches. Above this level is a corbeled red brick band course with round-arched windows. The main gables at the center of each facade contain various arched openings with fanlight transoms. The main roof is gabled and runs east-west with intersecting gables from the Watts Street side.

Some of the window sashes have been changed; but most of the original six-over-six, double-hung wood sash are intact. The single significant exterior alteration is an elevator tower which projects from the roof on the Watts Street elevation, but which is set back and faced with compatible yellow brick. The interior of the building has recently been entirely remodeled for residential purposes with a restaurant establishment on the first floor. These alterations have not affected the exterior of the building.

# 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 1891-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Stephen Decatur Hatch

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fleming Smith Warehouse is an architecturally distinguished commercial structure designed by Stephen Decatur Hatch, a notable New York City architect. The building displays handsome neo-Flemish and Romanesque Revival features such as the striking gabled roof and round-arched windows. Its picturesque silhouette complements its architectural character, and it enhances this warehouse section of New York City.

This area, once among the city's finest residential sections, contained one of its loveliest parks--St. John's Park.<sup>1</sup> In 1867, the trustees of Trinity Church, who owned the park, and a majority of the owners of the houses bordering it agreed to sell the park to Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, who then erected a railroad depot on the site. From then on, the area rapidly became commercial.

The building was constructed for Fleming Smith<sup>2</sup> in 1891-92 and designed as a warehouse by Stephen Decatur Hatch. By 1898, the building was being used for the storage of wine and the manufacture of shoes. Hatch, born in Swanton, Vermont in 1839, settled in New York City where he entered the architectural office of John B. Snook as a draftsman. In 1864, after spending four years in Snook's office, he established his own practice, remaining active until his death in 1894. During his thirty-year career, Hatch designed a number of imposing domestic and commercial buildings in a wide variety of architectural styles. A few of his most notable buildings that are still standing are: No. 213-215 Water Street (1868), an Italianate warehouse in the South Street Seaport Historic District; No. 1-5 Bond Street (1871), an impressive Second Empire cast-iron office building for the notable publishing house of D.D. Appleton & Co.; the Gilsey Hotel (1869-71) at 1200 Broadway, another striking Second Empire cast-iron building; the U.S. Army Building (1886) on Whitehall Street; and the Lafayette Street side of the former New York Life Insurance Co., 346-348 Broadway (1894). Hatch died soon after the design for the New York Life building was filed and the building was completed by Stanford White of the firm of McKim, Mead & White.

In 1886, five years before he designed No. 451-453 Washington Street, Hatch was commissioned by Fleming Smith to design a warehouse for him at 168 Duane Street overlooking Duane Park. The building, which is still standing, is a handsome example of the neo-Flemish style. Fleming Smith must have been pleased with the design of this earlier warehouse because Hatch used the neo-Flemish style again for the most striking feature of No. 451-453 Washington Street--its steep gables. It was during the 1880s that the neo-Flemish style was most

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre.  
 UTM REFERENCES

USGS Quad: Jersey City  
 Scale: 1:24,000

A 

1	8	5	8	3	5	6	0	4	5	0	8	3	7	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 224, Lot 24 and is approximately 50' x 100' 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

Anne B. Covell, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Agency Building I, Empire State Plaza

8/82

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

518-474-0479

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Albany

New York 12238

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Albert E. Lacer*

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner and Counsel

DATE

4/8/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Richard S. Byers*

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE

5/20/83

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Fleming Smith Warehouse

Continuation sheet New York County, N.Y.

Item number 8

Page 2

popular, although architects continued to use it until the early 1900s. Its popularity in New York began with the renewed interest in American colonial styles prompted by the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia in 1876. Often, neo-Flemish elements were freely combined with features of the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles. In the Fleming Smith Warehouse, Hatch combined the late Romanesque Revival with the neo-Flemish.

The Fleming Smith Warehouse, with its handsome combination of architectural elements and its picturesque silhouette, is a visually striking building and enhances the commercial area surrounding it.

<sup>1</sup>This section of the nomination form was taken from the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission Designation Report, Fleming Smith Warehouse (LP-0987), March, 1978, by James T. Dillon.

<sup>2</sup>Nothing is known about Fleming Smith at this time.

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

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

Fleming Smith Warehouse

Continuation sheet New York County, N.Y.

Item number

9

Page

1

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

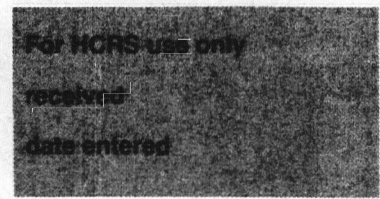
Landmarks Preservation Commission. Fleming Smith Warehouse (LP-0987), by James T. Dillon. New York: City of New York, 1978.

Francis, Dennis Steadman. Architects in Practice, New York City, 1840-1900. New York: Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 1980.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970.

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

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



Fleming Smith Warehouse

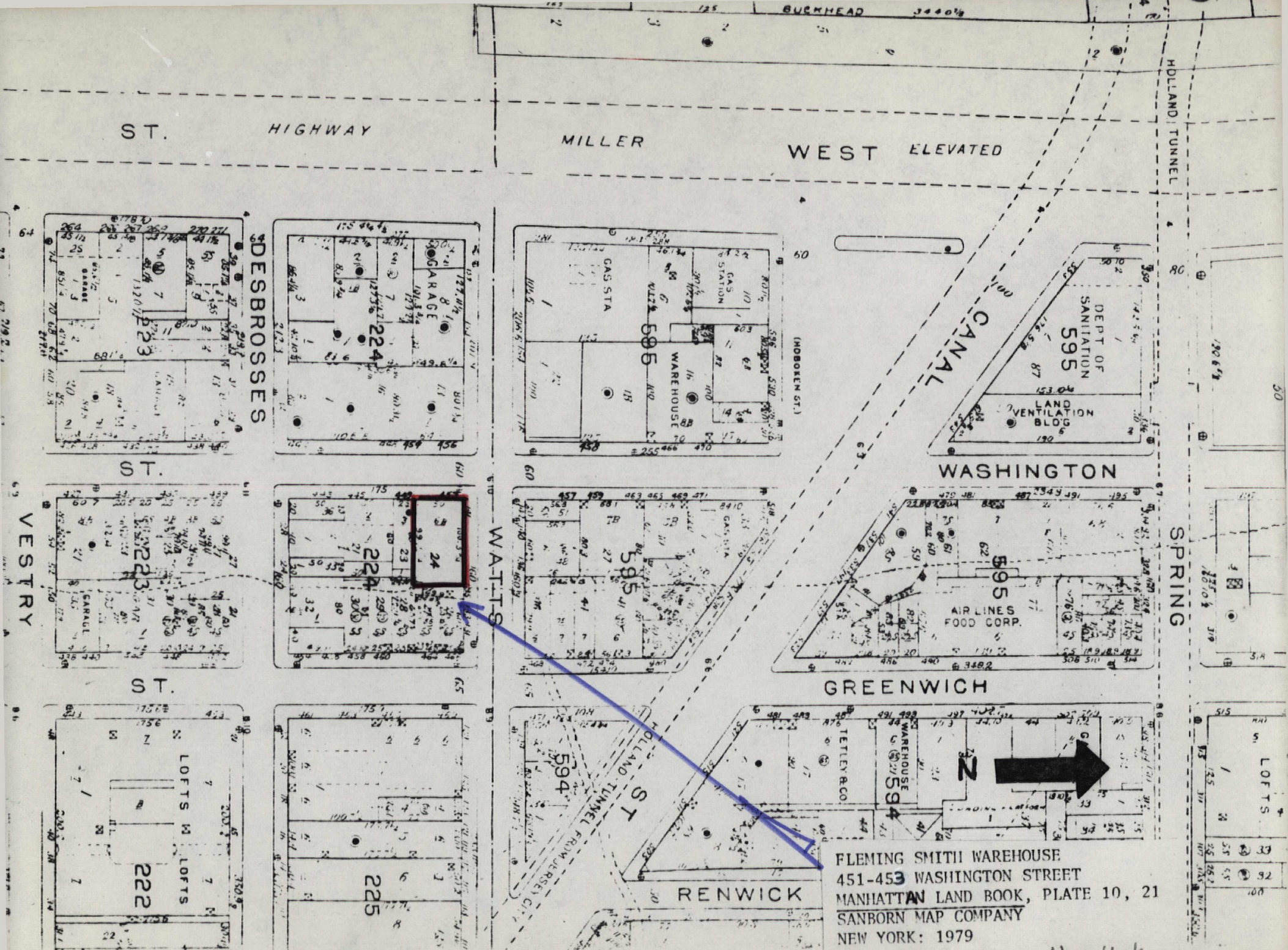
Continuation sheet New York County, NY

Item number 11

Page 2

Form Prepared By:

Charles J. Hasbrouck  
N.Y.C. Landmark Preservation Commission  
20 Vesey St.  
New York, NY 10007  
212-566-7577



FLEMING SMITH WAREHOUSE  
 451-453 WASHINGTON STREET  
 MANHATTAN LAND BOOK, PLATE 10, 21  
 SANBORN MAP COMPANY  
 NEW YORK: 1979  
*New York County, New York*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Smith, Fleming, Warehouse  
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 5/26/83  
 RETURN  
Entered in the 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
<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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## **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. Fleming Smith Warehouse  
451-453 Washington Street  
New York, N.Y. *County*  
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission.  
View to South East.



2. Fleming Smith Warehouse  
451-453 Washington Street

New York, *N.Y. County*

Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.

Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission.

View to North east.



- 3.
3. Fleming Smith Warehouse  
451-453 Washington Street  
New York, N.Y. *County*  
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission  
Interior, ground floor.

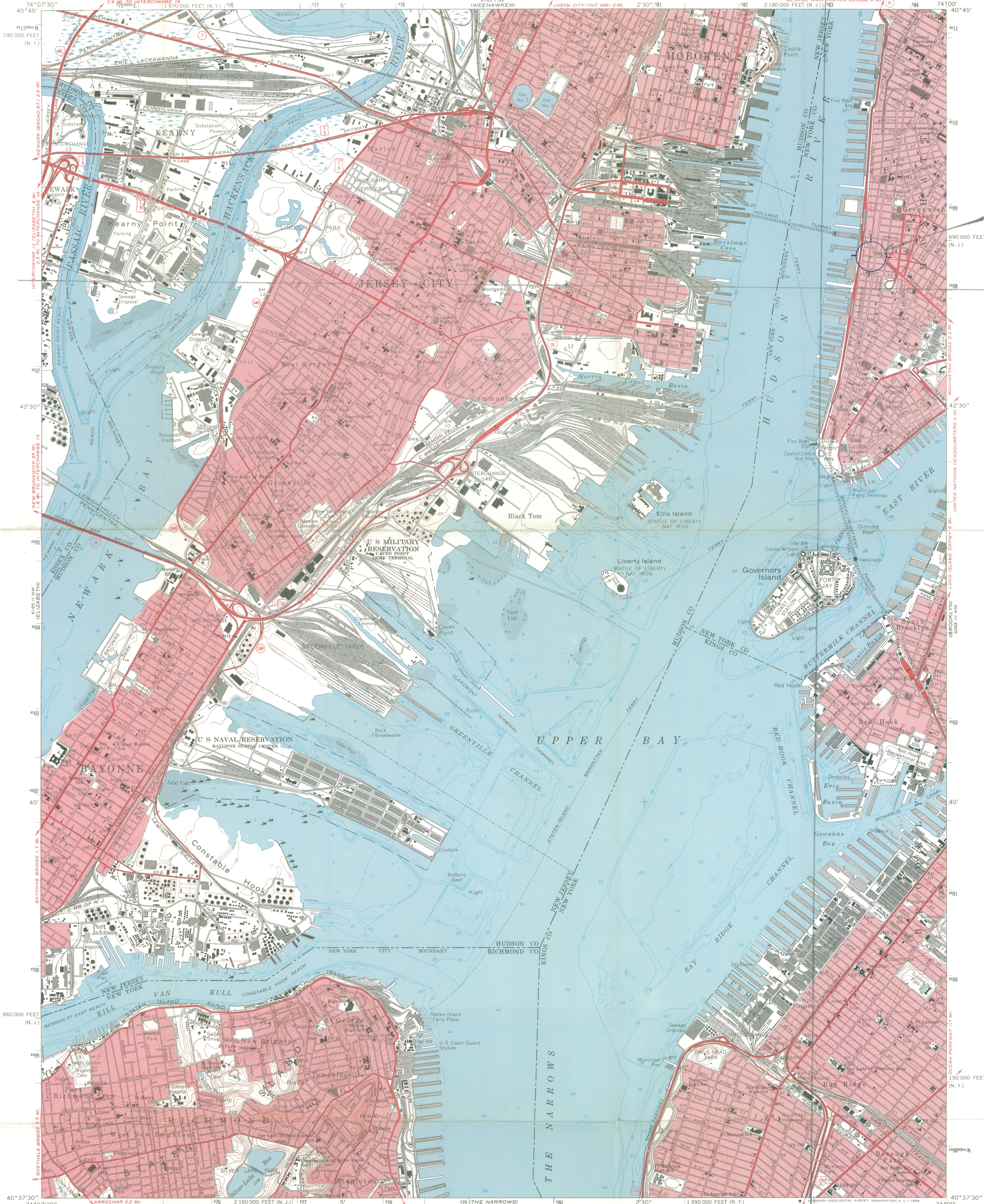


4.

4. Fleming Smith Warehouse  
451-453 Washington Street  
New York, N.Y. *county*  
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission  
Detail of load bearing column



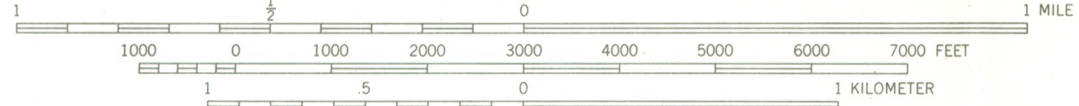
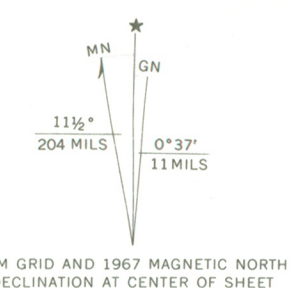
5. Fleming Smith Warehouse  
451-453 Washington Street  
New York, N.Y. *County*  
Photo by: Stephen L. Senigo, 1980.  
Neg. at: New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission  
Upper story window



0540

198B  
FLEMING SMITH WAREHOUSE  
451-453 Washington Street  
New York County, New York  
UTM Reference: 18/583560/4508370

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, New Jersey Geodetic Survey,  
and City of New York Board of Estimate and Apportionment  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS  
Charts T-5111, T-5277, T-5332, T-5450, T-5453, T-5454,  
T-5460, T-5461, T-5466, T-5468, T-5469, and T-5470  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1954 and planetable surveys 1955  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 285, 287, 541,  
and 745 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grids based on  
New Jersey coordinate system, and 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.6 FEET IN  
UPPER BAY AND 4.8 FEET IN NEWARK BAY

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—N. Y.  
N4037.5—W74007.7.5  
1967  
AMS 6165 II NE—SERIES V822