

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 4 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 Public School 7
~~P.S. 7~~
AND/OR COMMON
P.S. 7

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 131-143 York Street
CITY, TOWN Brooklyn New York VICINITY OF
STATE New York CODE 036 COUNTY Kings CODE 047
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Charlotte and Charles Pfahl
STREET & NUMBER C/O Schulman, Berlin & Davis, 555 Madison Avenue
CITY, TOWN New York VICINITY OF STATE New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. King's County Register's Office
STREET & NUMBER Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon Street
CITY, TOWN Brooklyn STATE New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE NONE
DATE _____
____FEDERAL ____STATE ____COUNTY ____LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Public School 7 is located on York Street between the Manhattan Bridge and the Brooklyn Navy Yard in an area of mixed nineteenth and twentieth century residential, commercial and industrial use. The school is set back from the street with an ornamental iron fence marking the building line. It fills the lot in front; there is a courtyard in back. There is no historic district potential in the immediate area. There are altered nineteenth-century structures, unrelated twentieth-century buildings and vacant lots in the vicinity.

The three-story masonry school is faced with pressed brick and trimmed with sandstone. It is basically I-shaped in plan, extending to the rear on the east and with a two-story brick and stone annex at the front on the west. The original portion of the school is divided into three sections: a slightly projecting three-bay center flanked by a two-window-wide wing on either side. A gable emphasizes the formal center bay entrance. The main facade ends in a cornice with angular brackets and a blank frieze. A bargeboard on the gable has stylized foliate ornament on the frieze. The roof is flat.

The windows have segmental brick arches with keystones on the first floor of the center bay and the first two floors of the wings. The remaining windows, apart from the center bay, are square-headed with stone lintels and sills. All are multi-paned sash windows. A pointed-arch casement window in the gable and a pair of lancet windows above the main door contribute the Gothic element to the facade.

The arch of the main doorway is composed of rock-faced stone. A fanlight above has an iron grill. There is a stone plaque reading "Public School 7" over the door and another, "1882," under the gable window.

The two-story brick and stone annex is rectangular in plan. The facade is four windows wide, with the entrance on the west end. The cornice is missing; the roof is flat. The windows have stone keystones, elaborately scrolled on the second floor. They are all multi-paned, sash windows. A triangular stone pediment supported by consoles marks the entrance to the annex. Another door, next to the original building, functioned as the entrance to the baths. A stone panel, "P.S. 7 Baths," is above the door.

There is a very plain, brick, one-story addition at the side of the building on the east which was built for toilets in the early twentieth century. It is only at the back of the school and completely blends in, on the outside, with the other, original, plain brick walls.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Although the school is largely intact, there have been some alterations. The second floor windows in the center bay were arched but are now square-headed. An 1892 photograph shows small windows in between the large ones on the first floor. They might not have been original; they have been bricked-up. The gable had an ornamental cresting, now missing. The cornice on the annex has been removed.

The interior is less elaborate than the exterior. In plan, the school was divided into several large spaces, some of which remain. Part of the school was divided into offices by the Board of Education. There is elaborate molding around the beams in the large spaces. It is wood and matches the cornice on the outside. All of the other trim, baseboard, door and window enframements, is very plain. There is wainscoting on some of the walls and metal ceilings in very poor condition on many of the ceilings. A plain and angular iron rail on the main staircase is probably not original.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1882 & c. 1907 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Naughton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Public School 7 is architecturally significant as one of the first public school buildings designed by James Naughton, Superintendent of Schools for the City of Brooklyn between 1879 and 1898. A prolific architect, Naughton designed all of the schools for Brooklyn during his twenty-year tenure. Public School 7, with its delicate neo-Grec and Gothic detailing, is a distinctive, representative example of the architect's early work. Retaining almost complete integrity, it is one of only a few of Naughton's schools to survive. The nomination also includes a circa 1907 annex designed in a Neoclassical idiom that complements the school in materials, massing and fenestration. The annex was designed to contain an auditorium and baths, amenities which began to be provided in schools as a result of the turn-of-the-century public health movement. Public School 7 was one of the first older schools to be fitted with baths.

Public School 7 was built in 1882 by the Brooklyn Board of Education. Its opening was the same year as that of the Brooklyn Bridge. The building was well received at the time. Henry Stiles (History of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, 1824. p.93.) described the new school in glowing terms.

"On this site has just been completed one of the best buildings ever erected for school purposes in this country - a structure to which the City can point with justifiable pride."

James W. Naughton designed schools for the Brooklyn Board of Education until his death in 1898. The architect, aptly, attended school in Brooklyn. He travelled to Milwaukee to work as an apprentice in the architectural office of J & A Douglas, then studied architecture at the University of Wisconsin at Madison before returning to New York and finishing his studies at Cooper Union. Naughton was active in Brooklyn politics and served as Superintendent of Buildings for the City of Brooklyn for two years before succeeding Samuel B. Leonard at the Board of Education. James Naughton's work is characterized by the sophisticated use of the prevailing eclectic styles of the late nineteenth century. He adapted these styles, primarily French Second Empire and Romanesque, to create handsome buildings which were unmistakably schools. He retained certain design elements, round arches, recessed panels, prominent entrances, which became his signature in Brooklyn public schools.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Brooklyn

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1 : 24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 5856 | 80 | 45105920

B | | |

C | | |

D | | |

E | | |

F | | |

G | | |

H | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See New York City Tax Map attached 6/30/1983
Nominated property is indicated by heavy line.

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

NA

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

See Continuation Sheet

NAME / TITLE

Contact: Larry E. Gobrecht

ORGANIZATION

NY State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

DATE

9/15/83

STREET & NUMBER

Empire State Plaza, Agency Building #1

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:

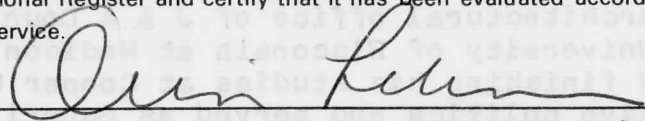
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL 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



TITLE

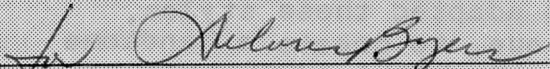
Commissioner

DATE

9-22-83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



Entered in the
National Register

DATE

11/3/83

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Brooklyn, Kings County, New York

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Public School 7 contains all of these elements in its design, - round arched windows and door, recessed panels on the facade and a slightly projecting front entrance crowned by a gable. The lancet window and pointed-arched window in the gable are Gothic touches also frequently used by Naughton.

P.S. 7 is a direct descendant of the second public school to be founded in the Village of Brooklyn. Brooklyn has a long history of public education; the town opened its first school in 1661. By 1821 there were one public school and eight private. In 1827 a second public school was established. This second district school moved to York Street in 1840. P.S. 7 was built on the same site in 1882. A preliminary physical survey shows evidence of older construction in the center of the 1882 school. It is possible that an older school was incorporated into the present building. P.S. 7 was used by the Board of Education until the 1970's - nearly a century and one half of use for public education.

An annex to P.S. 7 was built in the early twentieth century, in about 1907. The structure contained showers and an auditorium, two early twentieth century innovations in public schools. Providing baths or showers, playgrounds and auditoriums for school children was an idea that grew out of the public health movement. Immigration was at a high level at the turn of the century. Immigrants, newly arrived, crowded into slums where there was no open space and minimal sanitation. Reform groups lobbied for public parks and baths in reaction to these conditions. Schools were built with baths and playgrounds in immigrant neighborhoods experimentally in the early 1900's. By 1907, they were standard equipment for a well-appointed school. P.S. 7 was probably one of the first of the older schools to be fitted with baths. The baths, actually showers, were still being used in 1948, when they were called the neighborhood "swimming club."

The school is vacant today, but there are plans to rehabilitate it into apartments. Its small scale, bright red pressed brick and stone facade and combination of Italianate, Gothic and neo-Grec ornament combine to evoke the nineteenth century on the industrial street.

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Brooklyn, Kings County, New York

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Brooklyn Eagle. May 16, 1910.

Dillon, James T. Brooklyn Public Schools. unpublished
Landmarks Preservation Commission Report, 1983.

Furman, Gabriel. Notes Geographical and Historical Relating
to the Town of Brooklyn. Brooklyn, 1824. Reprinted, 1968.

New York City Board of Education. Annual Reports. NY, 1902-1910.

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. P.S. 39
Designation Report. NY, 1977.

_____. P.S. 9 Designation Report. NY, 1978.

_____. Hamilton Fish Park Play Center Designation Report.
NY, 1982.

New York Landmarks Conservancy. Public Buildings Inventory.
NY, 1979.

Souvenir of Our Public Schools. Board of Education ? : NY, 1892.

Stiles, Henry. History of Brooklyn. NY, 1884.

Tribune. November 15, 1948.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 2

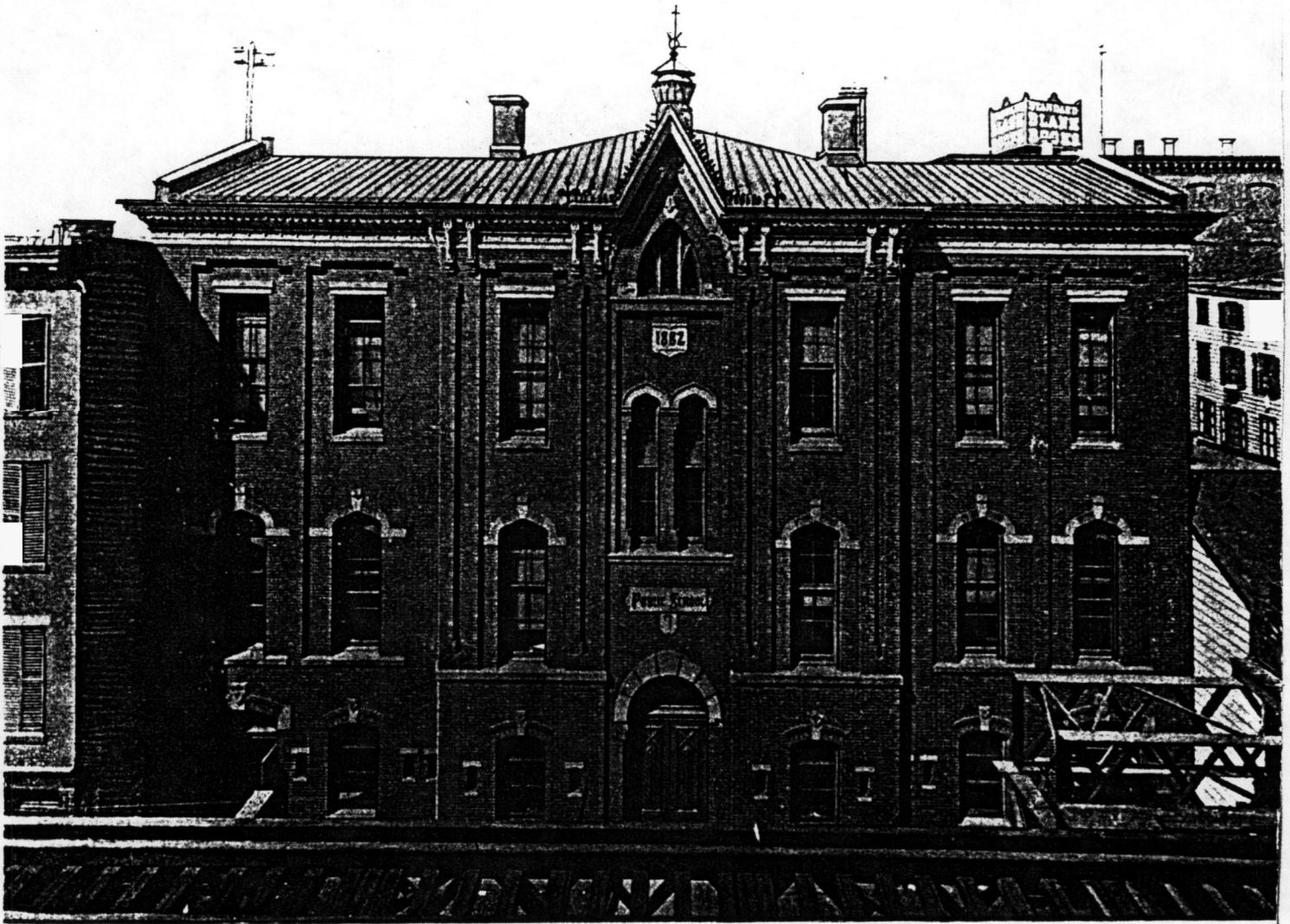
Form Prepared By:

Mary B. Dierickx
Architectural Preservation
125 Cedar Street
New York

9/15/83
212-227-1271
New York 10006

P.S. 7
Brooklyn, Kings Co., N.Y.
Illustration 1

P.S. 7



PUBLIC SCHOOL NUMBER 7.

YORK, NEAR BRIDGE STREET.

From Souvenir of Our Public Schools, Board of Education ? : NY, 1892

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Public School 7
Kings County
NEW YORK

Working No. OCT 4 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.80

Date Due: 11/3/83 - 11/18/83

Action: ACCEPT 11/3/83

Entered in the National Register 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 _____

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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____



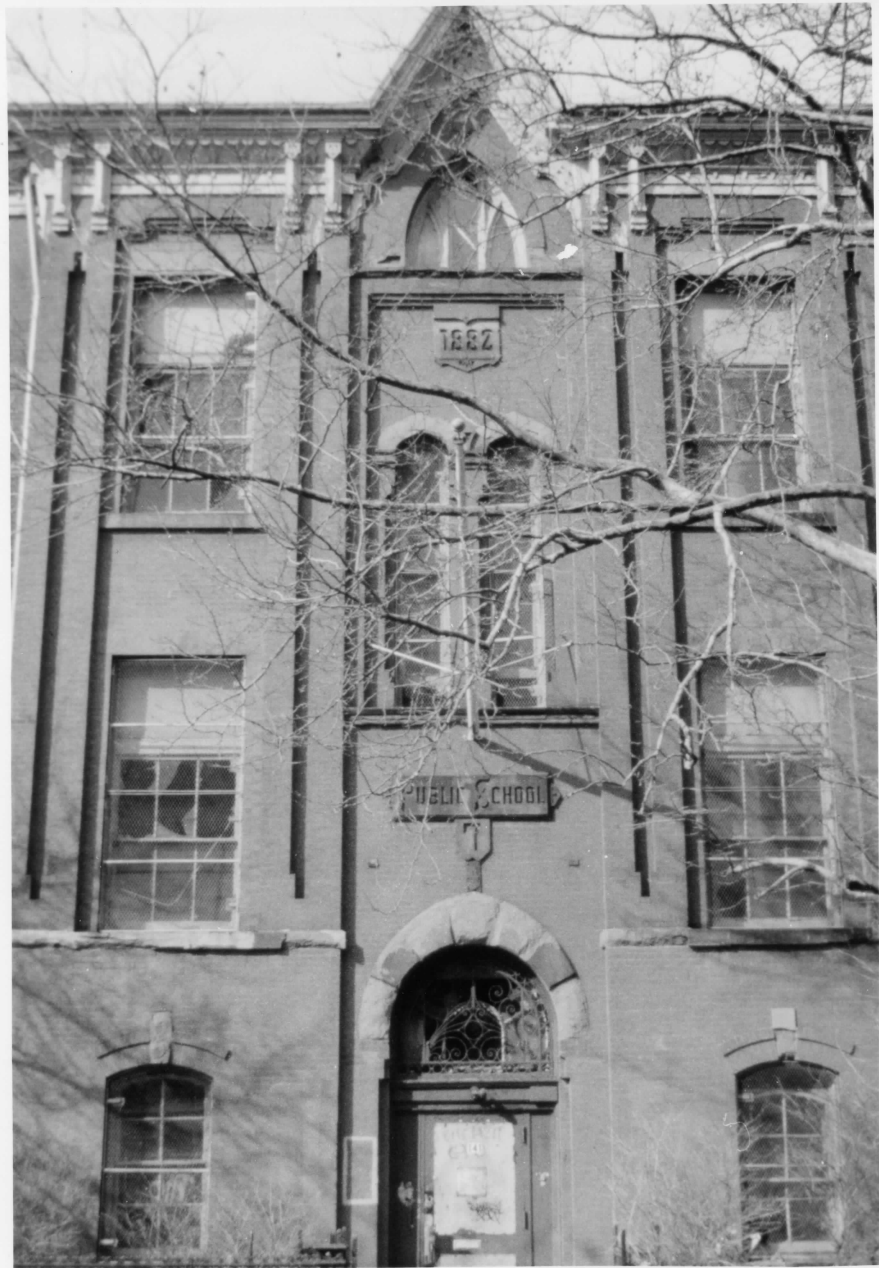
P.S. 7
Brooklyn, Kings County NY
Photo: M.B. Dierickx
Neg. - C. Pfahl
Schulman, Berlin & Davis
555 Madison Avenue
NY, NY 10022
Front Facade looking
north west
1983

#1

2A

2 188

X



P.S. 7

Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

Photo: John Gillis

Neg. - C. Pfahl

Schulman, Berlin & Davis

555 Madison Avenue

NY, NY 10022

Front Facade looking

north east

1982

#2

2: 228



P.S. 7
Brooklyn, Kings County, Ny
Photo: John Gillis
Neg. - C. Pfahl
Schulman, Berlin & Davis
555 Madison Avenue
NY, NY 10022
Front Facade looking
north east
1982

#3



P.S. 7

Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

Photo: John Gillis

Neg. - C. Pfahl

Schulman, Berlin, Davis

555 Madison Avenue

NY, NY 10022

Front Facade looking

north east

1982

2 228

#4



P.S. 7
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY
Photo: M.B. Dierickx
Neg. - C. Pfahl
Schulman, Berlin, Davis
555 Madison Avenue
NY, NY 10022
Front Facade Annex
looking north west
1983

#5

PA

2 188

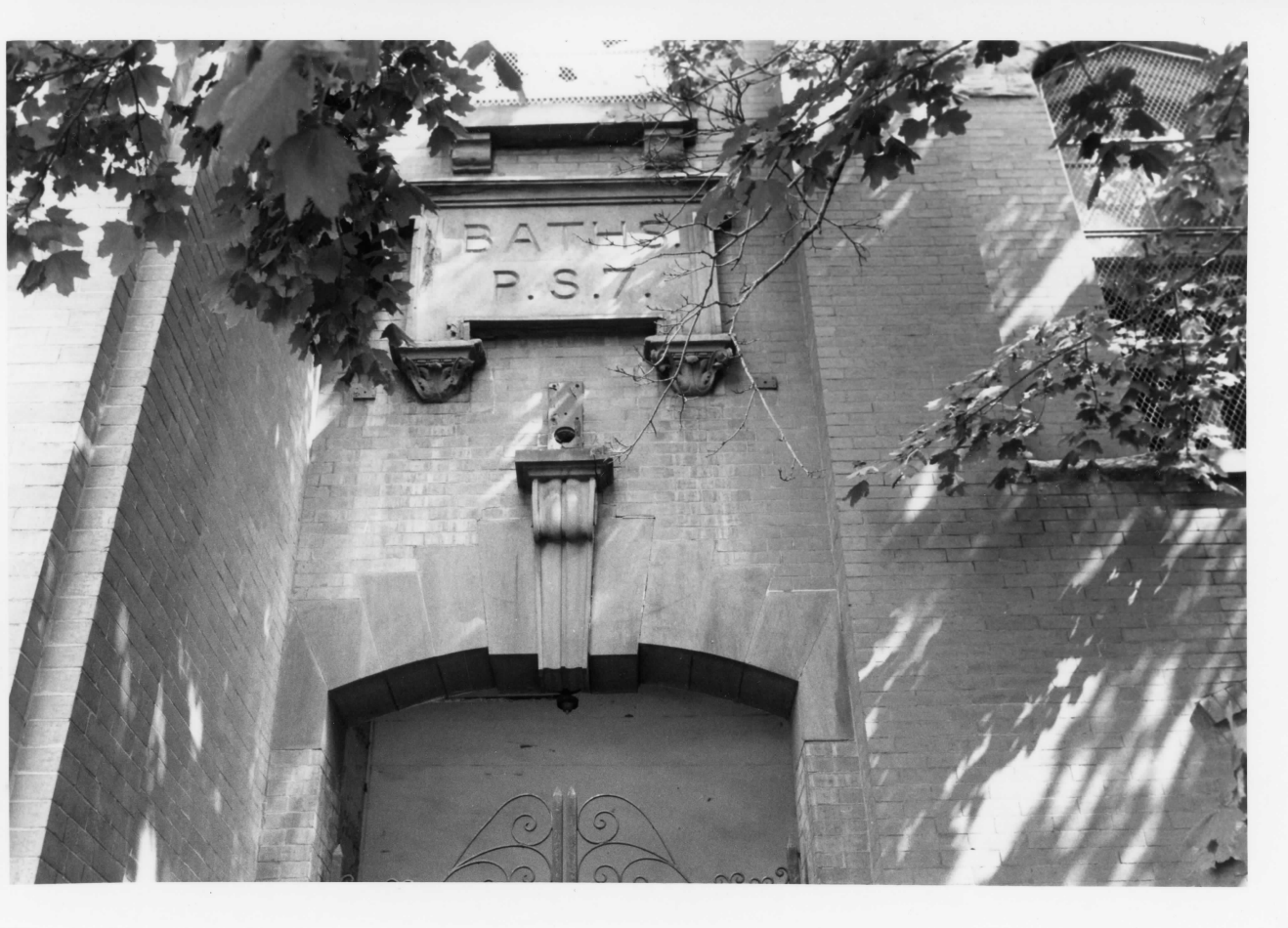
X



P.S. 7
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY
Photo: M.B. Dierickx
Neg. - C. Pfahl
Schulman, Berlin & Davis
555 Madison Avenue
NY, NY 10022
Front Facade Cornice
Detail, looking north
1983

#6

1881 2
TH / 2



BATHS
P.S. 7.

P.S. 7

Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

Photo: M.B. Dierickx

Neg. - C. Pfahl

Schulman, Berlin & Davis

555 Madison Avenue

NY, NY 10022

Front Facade Detail

looking north

1983

Imag

#17

13A

2

158



P.S. 7

Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

Photo: M. B. Dierickx

Neg. - C. Pfahl

Schulman, Berlin, Davis

555 Madison Avenue

NY, NY 10022

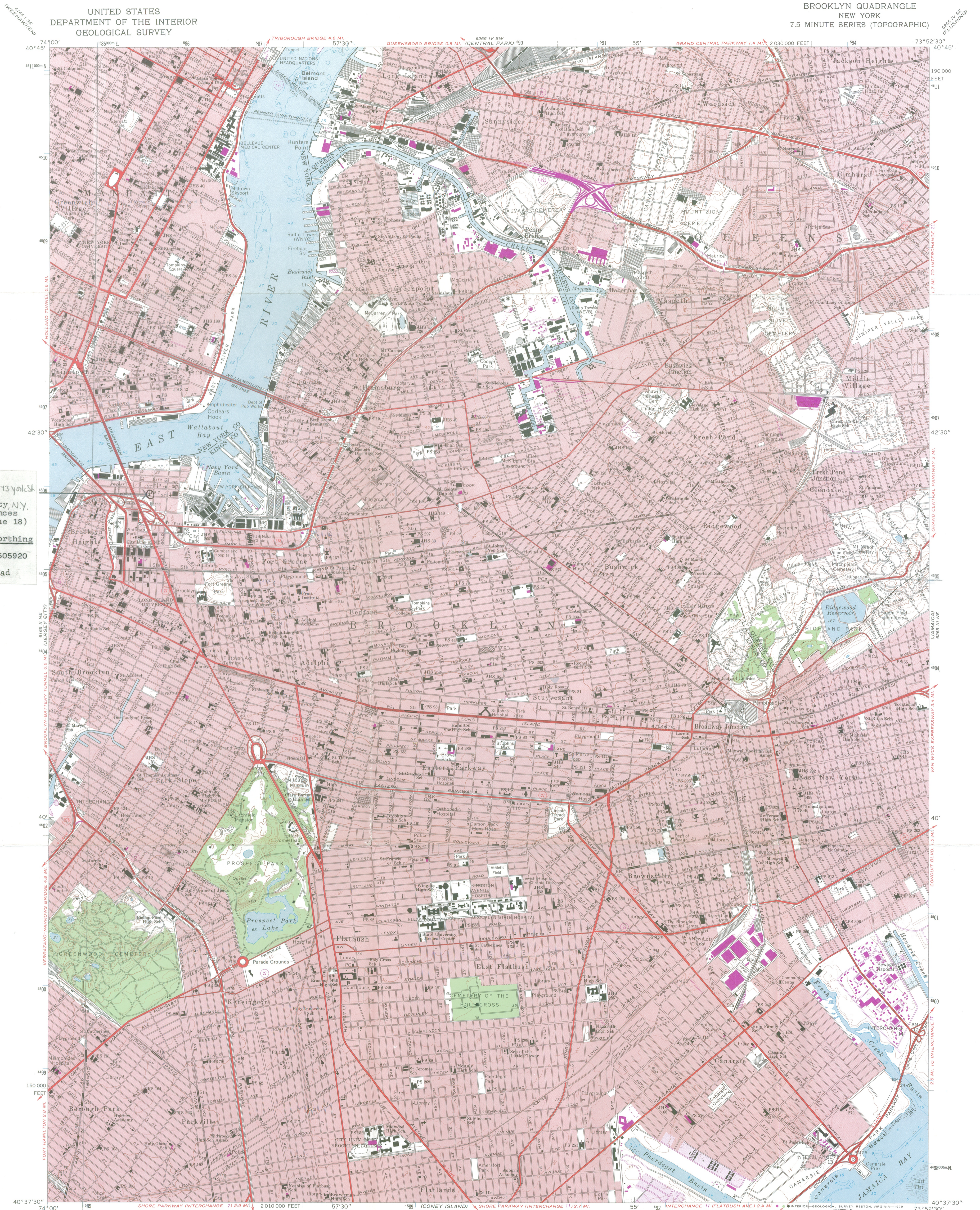
Rear Facade looking
south east

1983

#8

2/2/83
2 1183

7
K



P.S. 7 131-143 York St
Brooklyn,
Kings County, N.Y.
UTM References
(all in zone 18)

Easting	Northing
5856 80	4505920

Brooklyn Quad

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York Department of Transportation
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of New York Board of
Estimate and Apportionment

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1954, and from USCGS Charts T-5034, T-5335, T-5454
T-5459, T-5460, and T-8449

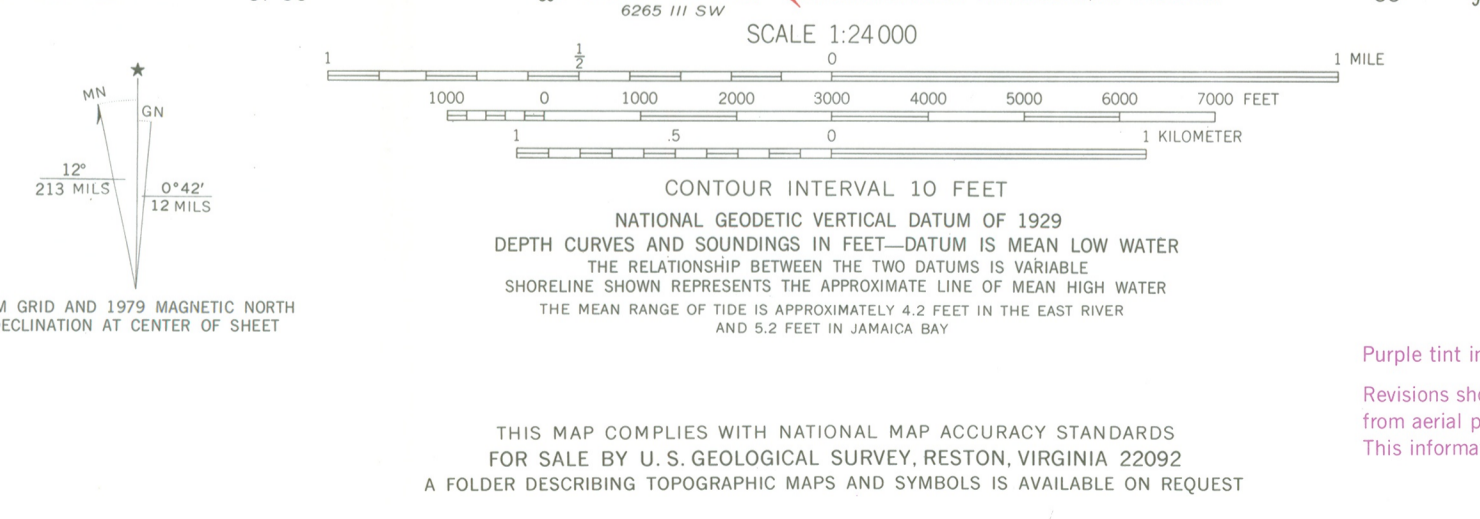
Topography by planetable surveys 1955-1956. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USCGS 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
100-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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Unimproved dirt	

Interstate Route State Route

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
N4037.5-W7352.5/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6265 III NW-SERIES V821

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