

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

SEP 06 1990

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Giuseppe Verdi Monument

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Verdi Square Park | | not for publication

city, town New York | | vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10023

3. Classification

Ownership of property	Category	Number of resources within property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ objects
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	1	_____ Total
		1	

Name of related multiple property listings: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, this property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Julia S. Stehman
Signature of certifying official
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

8/20/90
Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ see continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain): _____

Entered in the
National Register

Helene Byrne

10/4/90

fu
Signature of keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(enter categories from instructions)
Work of Art: Sculpture

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)
Work of Art: Sculpture

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th century revivals

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other Stone: granite and marble

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Giuseppe Verdi Monument is located in Verdi Square Park on Manhattan's upper west side. This park is actually a small triangular slice of open land formed by the intersection of Broadway (a diagonal) with Amsterdam Avenue (a vertical). Verdi Square is one of several triangular sites in Manhattan formed by Broadway as it angles across the rectangular city grid pattern. Verdi Square has traditionally served as a small neighborhood park and it constitutes the historic setting for the Verdi Monument, installed there in 1906. The nomination boundary includes the entire Verdi Square Park, in that it is the original and intact site of the monument. The park is characterized by a series of relatively young ginkgo, plain and locust trees, shrubs and foot paths. Although undistinguished as landscape design, these features are similar to those that formed the original setting of the monument. The 1906 monument is the only contributing feature included in the nomination.

The Verdi statue is located at the southern, wider, end of the triangle and it dominates the small urban park space. The nominated object is a monumental Neoclassical sculpture more than 25 1/2 feet tall. It consists of a complex stepped granite base surmounted by a cylinder. At the base of the monument, four white Carrara marble statues are distributed evenly around the cylinder. These figures represent four of Verdi's most popular operatic characters: Aida, Otello, Falstaff and Leonora. These figures are separated by large marble lyre, one of which has been removed. The focal point of the monument is the heroic sized statue of Verdi atop the cylinder, also exercised in white Carrara. The name of Pasquale Civiletti, the monument's sculptor, appears in block letters at the west side of the base.

The monument and its setting are substantially intact to the period of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of significance

Ethnic heritage

Art

Period of Significance

1906

Significant Dates

1906

Cultural Affiliation

Italian-American

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Pasquale Civiletti

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Giuseppe Verdi Monument is significant in art as a representative example of early-twentieth century public sculpture in New York City. Dominating a small, triangular public park between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue on the upper west side, the monument serves as the focal point of this busy intersection. The work was designed and executed in 1906 by Sicilian sculptor Pasquale Civiletti. Civiletti's design incorporates figurative and classical motifs in a monumental Neoclassical composition of high quality materials (granite and marble). The form and content of this work, which celebrates Italian nationalism, embody a number of ideas about civic pride, patriotism, nationalism and ethnic identity that informed American culture in this period, as well as the conflicting loyalties of America's large immigrant populations in the early twentieth century. In this regard, the monument is also significant in ethnic history as a tangible manifestation of the presence of a large Italian-American community in New York City and of the dynamics of assimilation and ethnicity that characterized these new citizens' lives.

Italians were numerous among the waves of southern European immigrants who arrived in the United States around the turn of the twentieth century. Among the ways that these newly arrived immigrants took an active part in American culture, while still retaining ties to their homeland, was participation in religious, social, artistic and/or literary endeavors. For Italians, in particular, the thematic content of these media was often related to the "Risorgimento," the movement for a free and united Italy that dominated Italian political and cultural activity during the nineteenth century. Thus in 1889, when the Sons of Italy in America inherited the small Staten Island residence in which Giuseppe Garibaldi, the revered Italian liberator, had sought refuge between 1850-1851, the group began to transform the small cottage to serve as a symbol of Italian culture in America. By 1907, the centennial of Garibaldi's birth, the once picturesque house had been engulfed by four massive classical pediments, one on each elevation, and was rededicated as a tangible expression of Italian patriotism and Italian-American pride (Garibaldi Memorial, NR 4/17/80).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETGIUSEPPE VERDI MONUMENT
VERDI SQUARE PARK
NEW YORK, NEW YORK COUNTY

Section number 8 Page 2

Carlo Barsotti's drive to finance a series of public sculptures in New York City memorializing Italian cultural and political heroes can be seen in the same context. Barsotti was an Italian immigrant himself, who was born near Pisa in 1850. Editor of the Italian language newspaper Il Progresso Italo Americano, Barsotti used his newspaper to conduct fundraising campaigns among New York's Italian community for five monuments, 11 of which were financed largely through public donations. In addition to the Verdi Monument, Barsotti also commissioned commemorative monuments honoring Garibaldi (c1888) for Washington Square, Columbus (1892) for Columbus Circle, Verrazano (1909) for Battery Park and Dante (1912-21) for Dante Square, a small public park at Broadway and West 65th Street much like Verdi Square.

The impetus for the Verdi Monument was the death of the famous composer in 1901. Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) was one of Italy's most popular composers of the nineteenth century. His work dominated Italian opera after 1850 and he is regarded today as influential in introducing romantic melodies and themes into the operatic canon. Verdi was also an ardent patriot and a supporter of the Risorgimento. Verdi's operas proved a perfect medium for his libertarian sentiments, which he wove skillfully into symbolic musical dramas. The plot of Nabucco (1842), for example, Verdi's first success, employed a distant historical event relating to the oppression of the Jews in biblical times; yet, the empathy of the audience with its themes reinvested the opera with contemporary relevance and symbolic meaning. Verdi followed Nabucco with a series of operas that relied on similar heroic themes and served to energize Italian citizens in the cause of independence.

Barsotti began to solicit donations for a Verdi memorial in 1901. By 1906, sufficient funds had been raised and the monument commissioned; the cornerstone was laid on September 20, 1906. Barsotti chose Pasquale Civiletti, a Sicilian sculptor, to design the monument. Civiletti was a Neoclassicist and this example, his only work in New York, is well within the Classical Revival tradition that dominated public art in America in the period. For the Verdi Monument, Civiletti combined generalized classical forms and motifs with heroic themes, figures from some of Verdi's best-loved operas (Aida, Falstaff, Otello and La Forza del Destino), and a life-sized statue of the composer himself in a substantial piece that commands its small urban site.

The completed monument was unveiled in October 1906 at a grandiose public ceremony that attracted 10,000 people. Today the Verdi Monument survives with a high degree of integrity as a tangible symbol of its times.

9. Major Bibliographical References

New York Landmarks Preservation Commission.
Verdi Square Designation Report, 1975.

Saltus, J. Sanford and Tisne, Walter E.
Statues of New York. Putnam, 1923.

Southwell-Sander, Peter. Verdi: His Life and Times.
Kent [Great Britian]: Midas, 1978.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 acres

UTM References

A 18 585910 4514520
Zone Easting Northing
C
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing
D
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the entire extent of Verdi Square Park, which is the original site of the Giuseppe Verdi Monument. The historic setting for the monument, a small public park at a busy urban intersection, is intact.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

See also continuation sheet

name/title Kathleen LaFrank, Program Analyst
organization Off. Parks, Rec., & Hist. Pres. date August 7, 1990
street & number Agency Bldg. 1 Emp. State Plz. telephone (518) 474-0479
city or town Albany state NY zip code 12238

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

GIUSEPPE VERDI MONUMENT
VERDI SQUARE PARK
NEW YORK, NEW YORK COUNTY

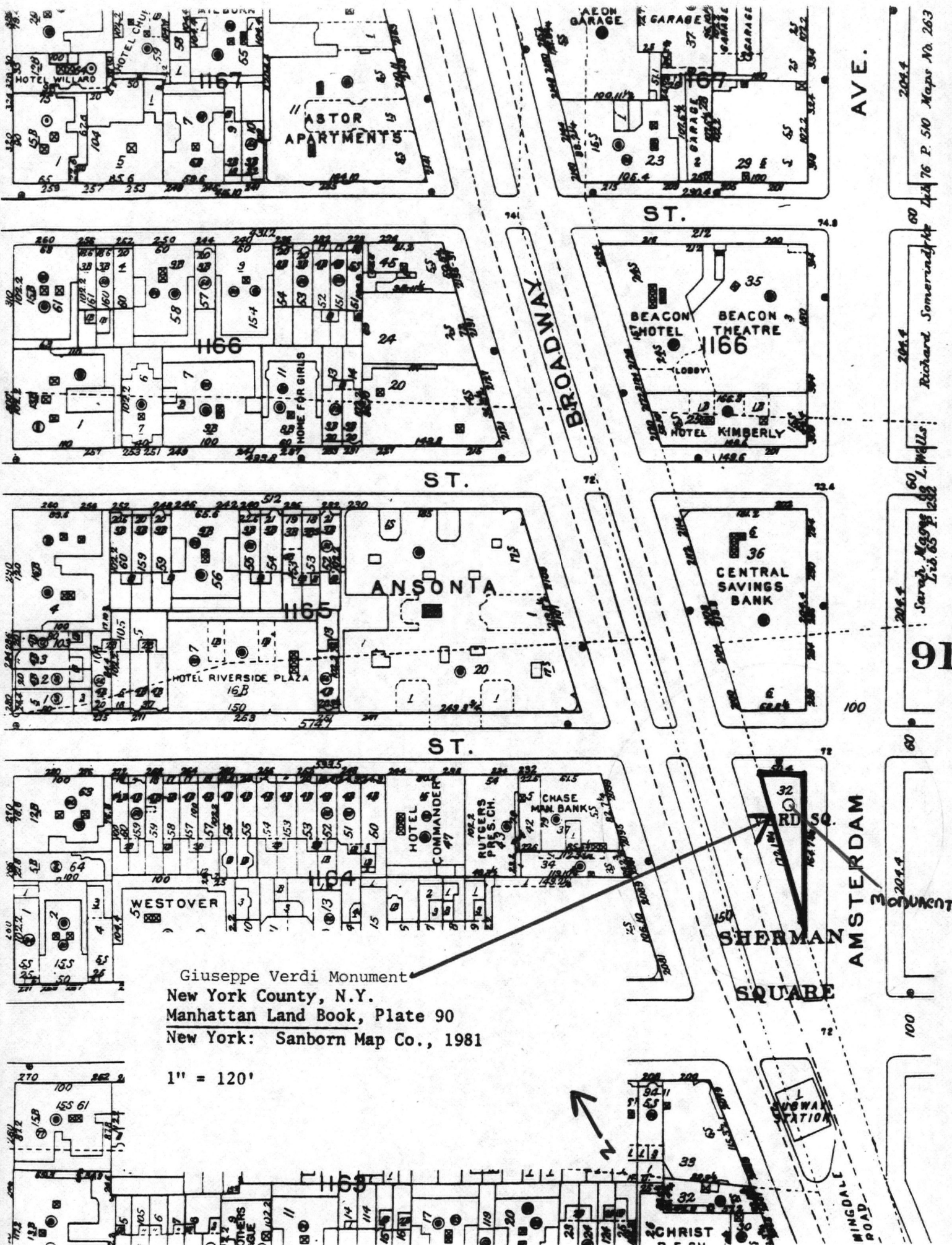
Section number 11 Page 2

This nomination was prepared by Kathleen LaFrank, Program Analyst, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and represents a synthesis and expansion of a variety of research and documentation undertaken by:

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Giuseppe Verdi Monument
New York County, N.Y.
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 90
New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1981

1" = 120'

AVE.

ST.

ST.

ST.

91

SHERMAN
SQUARE

AMSTERDAM

STATION

ROAD

204.4
60
Richard Somerville
Apr 76 P. 510 Maps No. 263

204.4
60
Sarah M. G. L. Wells
Sarah M. G. L. Wells

204.4
60
100

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Verdi, Giuseppe, Monument

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York

DATE RECEIVED: 9/06/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/18/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/04/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/21/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001528

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10/4/90 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Square Park
New York, New York County
Photo: A. Ardito, 1989
Negs: N.Y. S. O.P.R. M.P.

#1 Monument from southwest showing
Verdi, Falstaff &



Giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Square Park
New York, New York County
Photo: A. Ardito, 1989
Negs: N.Y. S. O. P. R. H. P.

#2 Monument from northeast showing
Verdi, Otello &

JLV8900635 N3N31



PARTY

Utopia RESTAURANT
BRASSerie

giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Square Park
New York, New York County
Photo: A. Ardito, 1989
Negs: N.Y.S.O.P.R.H.P.

#3 Monument from northwest showing
Verdi, Falstaff &



4
Giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Square Park
New York, New York County
Photo: A. Ardito, 1989
Negs: N.Y.S.O.P.R.H.P.

Verdi Square Park from south.
Note monument in near center of park.



5
Giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Square Park
New York, New York County
Photo: A. Ardito, 1989
Negs: N.Y.S.O.P.R.H.P.

#5 Verdi Square Park from northwest
Verdi Monument in center

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

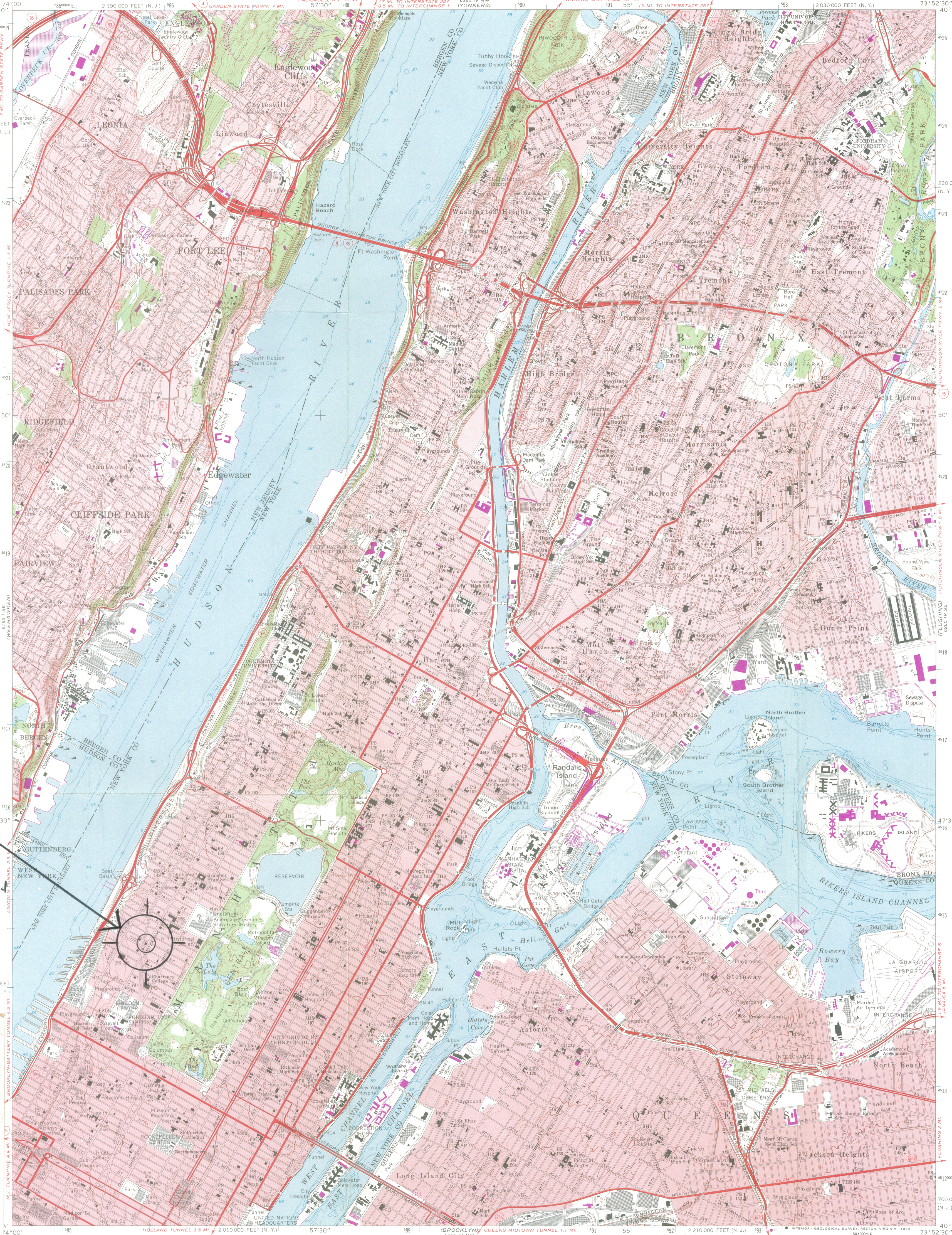


CENTRAL PARK QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE

6865 IV NW
MOUNT VERNON

Giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Sq. Park
NY, NY Co, NY
Central Park Quad.
18/585910/
4514520

Giuseppe Verdi Monument
Verdi Square
New York County, N.Y.
UTM Reference:
18/ 585910/ 4514520
Central Park, N.Y.-N.J. 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 planetable 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

12" 213 MILS
0.42" 12 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
CENTRAL PARK, N.Y.-N.J.
SW 1/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE
N4045-W7352.5/7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6265 IV SW-SERIES W821
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