

Landmarks Preservation Commission
November 28, 2000, Designation List 320
LP-2080

AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY SAILORS' HOME and INSTITUTE, 505-507 West Street (aka 113-119 Jane Street), Manhattan. Built 1907-08; William A. Boring, architect.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 642, Lot 1.

On October 31, 2000, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 1). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Six people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of State Senator Thomas Duane, the Historic Districts Council, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, Greenwich Village Community Task Force, and Hudson River Park Conservancy Working Group; a representative of the owner testified that the owner looks forward to a working relationship with the Commission. In addition, the Commission received letters in support of designation from City Councilmember Christine C. Quinn and Community Board 2.

Summary

The American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute was constructed in 1907-08 to the handsome neo-Classical style design of architect William A. Boring. He was formerly a partner in Boring & [Edward L.] Tilton, most noted as the firm that won the 1897 competition for new buildings at the U.S. Immigration Station on Ellis Island. The American Seamen's Friend Society (ASFS), established in New York City in 1828, was one of a number of nineteenth-century religious organizations concerned with improving the social and moral welfare of seamen throughout the U.S. and abroad. ASFS, which had operated a Sailors' Home near the East River docks from 1837 to 1903, purchased a lot in 1905 in Greenwich Village amidst the busiest section of the by then more active Hudson River waterfront. Half of the cost of the Sailors' Home and Institute was paid for by a grant from Olivia Sage, one of the world's wealthiest and most important philanthropic women. The five-story (plus basement and partial sixth story) building, clad in brick and cast stone on its principal facades, is distinctively embellished with a polygonal corner tower, entrance portico, and nautical ornament. Called by the *New York Times* "the largest institution of its kind in the world," it was operated as a hotel with numerous amenities for seamen of the commercial merchant marine, as well as a home for indigent sailors, and was intended as an alternative to the waterfront "dives" and sailors' boardinghouses. After the luxury liner *Titanic* sank in 1912, surviving crew members received care here. In 1930-31, ASFS joined with the Young Men's Christian and Seamen's Christian Associations in building a new Seamen's House at 550 West 20th Street. The American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute building then became the Seamen's Relief Center annex, which provided free beds and meals to destitute seamen during the Depression and World War II. The property was officially conveyed in 1944 to the YMCA, which removed a beacon from the tower in 1946, symbolically signaling the end of its institutional history. Since then it has been a residential and transient hotel. The building stands out along the Hudson River waterfront as a significant reminder of the era when the Port of New York was one of the world's busiest and half a million seamen docked in the city each year.



DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

American Seamen's Friend Society¹

The American Seamen's Friend Society (ASFS), formally established in New York City in May 1828, was one of a number of nineteenth-century religious organizations concerned with improving the social and moral welfare of seamen throughout the United States and abroad. It was part of the broader American evangelical reform movement, whose followers and organizations also distributed bibles and tracts, funded missionaries, and advocated temperance and abolition of slavery. In American seaport towns, the perceived vices of sailors in waterfront sections were seen as threats to the general moral order. ASFS was also genuinely concerned with the physical well-being of sailors, who were generally poor and exploited working-class men with specific job-related problems and needs. The roots of ASFS were in the Brick Presbyterian Church; members began holding prayer meetings in 1816 on Water Street that were attended by large numbers of sailors, suggesting a need for an interdenominational church especially for them. The Marine Bible Society (1817) and the Society for Promoting the Gospel Among Seamen in the Port of New York (1818) supported the building of the first Mariners Church (1820), located on Roosevelt Street near the East River. Rev. John Truair of that church, who was also the founder of *The Mariner's Magazine*, called for a meeting in 1825 to plan for a national nonsectarian seamen's welfare association. The Hon. Smith Thompson, a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and a former Secretary of the Navy,² was the first president of ASFS and Rev. Joshua Leavitt, a leading reformer and editor,³ was the first general agent. Most of its trustees were from the U.S. Navy and from other American port cities. ASFS was incorporated in 1833.

The goals of ASFS, as later stated, were "to improve the social, moral and religious condition of seamen; to protect them from imposition and fraud; to prevent them from becoming a curse to each other and the world; to rescue them from sin and its consequences, and to *save their souls*. ... [and] to sanctify commerce, an interest and a power in the earth, second only to religion itself, and make it everywhere serve as the handmaid of Christianity."⁴ The leaders of ASFS further desired to "enlist the seamen of America and the world in the foreign mission enterprise."⁵ The major activities of ASFS to effect those goals were the "founding of chaplaincies, building of Bethels, i.e., seamen's churches, ... promoting a mental and moral culture among seamen afloat by the Loan Library System, and philanthropic work, such as promoting Sailors' Homes, Mariners'

Houses, Institutes, Reading Rooms, Coffee Rooms, Shelters, and other places of a helpful character."⁶ In 1828, ASFS began publication of *The Sailor's Magazine & Naval Journal*; the first Seamen's Bethel Church was founded in 1829 in Honolulu; the first loan library began in 1833; and forty-two local ASFS chapters had been formed by 1834. Many of the trustees and officers of ASFS also presided over the Seamen's Bank for Savings, established in 1829 for the legitimate handling of sailors' wages. Later in the century, ASFS confined its work solely to seamen of the commercial merchant marine, rather than including sailors of the U.S. Navy.

In New York City and elsewhere, one of the main concerns of ASFS founders was the need for sailors' homes that offered alternatives to the "dives, dance halls, saloons, and the sailors' boarding houses" that lined the waterfront.⁷ A sailors' home in New York was planned as early as 1830, but it did not open until 1837 in a leased building at 140 Cherry Street near the East River docks. Two more homes, one for "colored seamen," were opened over the next three years. In 1841-42, ASFS built a new Sailors' Home at 190 Cherry Street, which was called by the organization "the first sailors' home in the United States to be erected and maintained by a welfare society."⁸ This building held sleeping quarters for around 300 sailors, as well as a bank, library, chapel, and reading, dining, and recreation rooms. The *Annual Report* of ASFS in 1879 referred to the "remodeling, enlargement and virtual rebuilding" of the facility, which was completed in 1880.⁹ The Sailors' Home was closed in 1903 and the property acquired by the city for the construction of the approach to the Manhattan Bridge. Although the Sailors' Home had accommodated over 128,000 seamen to that date, its usefulness in the old seaport neighborhood of the East River docks had lessened since the North (Hudson) River had become the more active waterfront. In January 1905, ASFS acquired a lot for a new home at the northeast corner of West and Jane Streets in Greenwich Village for \$70,000.

The Port of New York and the Greenwich Village Waterfront

By the early nineteenth century, New York City developed as the largest port in the United States and in the early twentieth century emerged as one of the busiest ports in the world. In Manhattan, South Street along the East River had been the primary artery for maritime commerce, but West Street became a competitor in the 1870s and supplanted the former by

about 1890. ASFS specifically chose a location that was the approximate midway point between Piers 1 and 91 that lined the busy North (Hudson) River waterfront. This site was also close to the nine Chelsea Piers (1902-10, Warren & Wetmore, demolished) then under construction, which were to be the docks of the great transatlantic liners for the "United States, Grace, Cunard White Star, Panama Pacific, and American Merchant" lines.¹⁰ This area was described in 1914 as "in the heart of the busiest section of the port, adjacent to the transatlantic liners, coast and gulf vessels, between Christopher and 23rd Streets, surrounded by 5,000 seamen of all nationalities" of the half a million seamen that came into the harbor each year.¹¹ By 1939, the Federal Writers' Project's *New York City Guide* described this "most lucrative water-front property in the world" as follows:

*Although the western rim of Manhattan is but a small section of New York's far-flung port, along it is concentrated the largest aggregate of marine enterprises in the world. Glaciers of freight and cargo move across this strip of ... water front. It is the domain of the super-liner, but it is shared by the freighter, the river boat, the ferry, and the soot-faced tug... Ships and shipping are not visible along much of West Street. South of Twenty-third Street, the river is walled by an almost unbroken line of bulkhead sheds and dock structures... Opposite the piers, along the entire length of the highway, nearly every block houses its quota of cheap lunchrooms, tawdry saloons and waterfront haberdasheries catering to the thousands of polyglot seamen who haunt the "front." Men "on the beach" (out of employment) usually make their headquarters in barrooms, which are frequented mainly by employees of lines leasing piers in their vicinity.*¹²

American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute¹³

The ASFS *Annual Report* in 1905 stated that it had "under consideration a new place for the men, more modern and to meet local and the Society's needs."¹⁴ In April 1906, ASFS announced that its new home was to be built to plans from the office of architects Boring and Tilton. The trustees of ASFS were concerned about constructing an expensive new building. Two months earlier, another organization, the Seamen's Church Institute, had unveiled plans to construct what it intended to be the world's largest sailors' home at Coenties Slip and South Street. In

April 1907, however, ASFS received an unsolicited gift of \$150,000 from Olivia Sage. The widow of financier Russell Sage and one of the world's wealthiest and most important philanthropic women, she was a relative of Rev. Charles A. Stoddard, the president of ASFS.¹⁵ "Said to be the largest single gift for seamen's work up to that time,"¹⁶ it was given the same month that Olivia Sage created the Russell Sage Foundation.¹⁷ As quoted in the *New York Times*, Mrs. Sage requested that "the building [be] correct and adequate from the start."¹⁸

A rendering of the proposed American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute appeared on the cover of the ASFS *Annual Report* of 1906 and in the *Real Estate Record & Guide* of July 13, 1907. The accompanying article in the latter journal stated that the building would accommodate about 250 men and be partly "modeled after the Mills Hotel."¹⁹ (Mills House (1896-97, Ernest Flagg), 160 Bleecker Street, had been built as a hotel for working men.) Reflecting the "institute" part of its name, the building would house various recreational and other amenities. By the end of July, the construction contract was awarded to Richard Deeves & Son. The building as originally proposed was to be clad in white granite on the ground story and light-colored brick and limestone above. The design featured a polygonal corner tower rising an additional story and surmounted by a beacon and a flagpole; a roof garden with pergolas; and a monumental round-arched entrance adjacent to the tower on the longer facade on Jane Street.

The cornerstone was laid on November 26, 1907. A number of changes were made to the original design, such as the substitution of red brick, laid in English bond, and cast stone as the cladding materials of the principal facades, and buff brick elsewhere; elimination of the roof pergolas; construction of a rectangular entrance portico, with an entablature supported by pilasters and columns, and a straight stoop rather than a box stoop; and modifications to the overall decorative scheme. The five-story (plus basement and partial sixth story) structure was built with iron-and-steel framing on concrete footings. The plan is arranged around an open light court above the second story. The completed building, called by ASFS "the first of its kind in the United States" and "the largest and finest building for seamen on the western Continent,"²⁰ was dedicated and opened on October 7, 1908. The *New York Times* called it "the largest institution of its kind in the world," as well as a "handsome" building "which has all the appurtenances of a modern club."²¹ Nautical motifs that refer to ASFS are included on cartouches above the first story. The total cost, including the lot and

furnishings, was around \$300,000. During the dedication week, ASFS sponsored the first International Conference for Welfare Workers for Seamen. The building design appeared in the annual exhibition of the Architectural League of New York in 1908.²² George Jean Nathan, writing in *Harper's Weekly* in 1909, referred to it as "the greatest non-resident club in the world."²³

The American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute was operated as a hotel for seamen of all nationalities and ranks, as well as a free home for destitute, sick, or shipwrecked sailors. The different classes of seamen had separate quarters: there were 170 single rooms for sailors and firemen, thirty-two rooms for officers and engineers, and a dormitory with beds for twenty-four cooks and stewards. Amenities included a swimming pool, a bowling alley, and a restaurant in the basement; an auditorium/concert hall (for lectures, weekly concerts, and amateur theatricals), the general offices of ASFS, and rooms for reading, writing, and billiards on the first story; an interdenominational chapel (the "Church of the Sea" for daily evening prayers), officers' billiard rooms, and lounging rooms on the second story; as well as a bank, postal service, showers, library, laundry, cooperative clothing store, and baggage room.²⁴ The tower, with an observatory and a polygonal beacon "whose light flashes a welcome up and down the river,"²⁵ was planned to include a navigation school. The initial cost of lodging per night was 25 cents for seamen and 50 or 75 cents for officers; dinner cost 25 cents. The Sailors' Home and Institute was intended to provide "opportunities for rest and recreation among decent surroundings," an alternative "far different from the other hotels and lodging houses on the waterfront."²⁶ It was reported that in the month of February 1909 nearly 16,000 sailors visited the building.²⁷

The Architect: William A. Boring²⁸

The architect of the Sailors' Home and Institute, William Alciphron Boring (1859-1937), made his reputation largely through commissions from institutions. Born in Carlinville, Illinois, the son and grandson of building contractors, he initially trained as a carpenter (1874-78) and studied architecture at the University of Illinois (1880-82) before his family moved to Los Angeles in 1882. He worked as a draftsman for Pasadena architect Clinton B. Ripley, with whom he formed Ripley & Boring. In 1883, he established Boring & [Sidney I.] Haas. During this period, Boring worked on the design of schools, buildings (now demolished) on the University of Southern California campus, the first Los Angeles

Times Building (demolished), and hotels, including the Hotel Arcadia in Santa Monica (demolished). Boring moved to New York City in 1886 to attend Columbia University, studying with William R. Ware for a year. In May 1887, he was hired by McKim, Mead & White, where he met Edward Lippincott Tilton (1861-1933), who had been working in the firm since June 1886. Born in New York City, Tilton had attended the Chappaqua Institute, Westchester County, New York, and as a teenager had worked for the banking firm of Corlies, Macy & Co. The two men decided to continue their studies at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris (1887-90), Boring in the Atelier Ginain and Tilton in the Atelier Pascal. After traveling in Europe, Boring and Tilton returned to New York in 1890 to the office of McKim, Mead & White. In 1891, they formed Boring & Tilton. Nathan C. Mellen joined them in partnership until 1894 for the Casino (1891-92), Belle Haven, Connecticut, and the grand Hotel Colorado (1891-93) in the resort town of Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Boring & Tilton secured its distinguished reputation through winning the competition in 1897 for the first phase of new buildings at the U.S. Immigration Station on Ellis Island. These included the Main Building (1897-1900), Kitchen and Laundry Building (1900-01), Main Powerhouse (1900-01), Main Hospital Building (1900-01), all located within the Ellis Island Historic District, and the incinerator (demolished). The firm was awarded a gold medal at the Exposition Universelle, Paris (1900); a gold medal at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo (1901); and a silver medal at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis (1904). Among the firm's commissions were the Town Hall (1899), East Orange, New Jersey; Tome School for Boys complex (1900-05), Port Deposit, Maryland; J.J. Astor Estate warehouse (1902-03), 29-35 Ninth Avenue; Brooklyn Heights Casino (1904-05) and the Casino Mansion Apartments (1910, Boring), 75 Montague Street/200 Hicks Street, located within the Brooklyn Heights Historic District; Eastern District YMCA (1904-06), 177-185 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn; and residences in New York and Connecticut. The formal partnership of Boring & Tilton ended in 1904, although both men continued in association until 1915, sharing offices and equipment as they worked independently.²⁹

William Boring was extremely active and influential in design and planning circles. He was a founder and the first president (1893-94) of the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects; a founder (1894) and trustee of the American School of Architecture in Rome, which was absorbed in 1897 by the American Academy, of which he was treasurer (1906-37); a vice-

president and fellow of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.) and a president of the New York chapter; chairman of the A.I.A. committee (1900) that helped advance the creation of the Senate Park (McMillan) Commission a year later, which advised on the layout of governmental buildings and parks in the federal core of Washington, D.C., respecting Pierre L'Enfant's original plan; a president of the Architectural League (1910-12); a member of the U.S. Council of Fine Arts; architect on New York's Art Commission; and an associate of the National Academy of Design. Boring was awarded the A.I.A. New York Chapter's medal of honor in 1927. He was responsible for the town layout and the design of numerous buildings (1904-09) in Bogalusa, Louisiana, for the Great Southern Lumber Co.; St. Agatha's School (1908), 555 West End Avenue; Flower Hospital (1909), York Avenue and East 63rd Street; Whitney Manufacturing Co. plant (1909) and Connecticut Institute for the Blind (1911), Hartford; Mt. St. Mary's College (1912), North Plainfield, New Jersey; and American School for the Deaf (1922, with Isaac Allen), West Hartford. Boring left his full-time architectural practice to enter the employ of Columbia University's School of Architecture, becoming a professor of design (1915), director (1919), and the first dean (1930), until retiring in 1934.

Later History³⁰

ASFS considered its successful Sailors' Home and Institute "the most popular resort for seamen in the port... [and that it] was also a model largely patterned after by other organizations who were building homes for seamen."³¹ After the luxury liner *Titanic* sank on its maiden voyage on April 15, 1912, surviving crew members carried by the *Carpathia* docked in New York at Pier 54 on April 18 and were brought to the Sailors' Home and Institute, where they received care and clothing. A memorial for the victims of the *Titanic* was held here on April 19.

By the 1920s, there were three seamen's welfare organizations near each other on the Greenwich Village-Chelsea waterfront: ASFS, the Young Men's Christian Association Merchant Seamen's Branch (established 1920), 525 West 23rd Street, and the Seamen's Christian Association (founded 1888), 399 West Street. The trustees of these agencies decided to cooperate rather than compete in mission and fundraising. In October 1928, ASFS made an agreement with the YMCA that it would sell its Sailors' Home and Institute building and turn over the proceeds for the construction of a new facility to be operated by the YMCA. The Seamen's Christian Association made a similar agreement. The eight-

story, million-dollar Seamen's House (1930-31, Shreve, Lamb & Harmon; plans by the Architectural Bureau of the National Council of the YMCA), 550 West 20th Street, was dedicated on November 2, 1931. At that time, the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute building was officially closed. The three organizations participated in the program, administration, and staffing of the new building, which catered to the needs of the crews of the estimated 10,000 passenger and freight ships that docked in New York harbor each year.³²

The American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute building, rather than being sold, soon became the Seamen's Relief Center annex, where free beds and meals were provided to indigent seamen during the Depression and World War II. The building was officially conveyed in 1944 to the YMCA, which removed the beacon from the tower in 1946, symbolically signaling the end of its institutional history. Since then it has been a privately-held residential and transient hotel. It was acquired in 1946 by the Jane-West Corp. and operated as the Jane-West Hotel. The property was transferred in 1951 to Benbar Associates, and in 1967 to Hotel Associates. It has recently been named the Riverview Hotel. From the 1930s until the present, the building has housed a series of commercial tenants, such as a lunchroom, a bar and grill, a theater, clubs, and union offices.

After 1960, with the introduction of containerized shipping and the accompanying need for large facilities (space for which could be accommodated in Brooklyn and New Jersey), the Manhattan waterfront rapidly declined as the center of New York's maritime commerce. In addition, airplanes replaced ocean liners carrying passengers overseas. Most of the piers and many buildings associated with Manhattan's maritime history have been demolished. ASFS disbanded its New York office in the 1970s. The American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute building remains a significant reminder of the era when the Port of New York was one of the world's busiest and half a million seamen docked in the city each year.

Description

The five-story (plus basement and partial sixth story) neo-Classical style American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute is located on the northeast corner of West and Jane Streets. The building is clad in red brick laid in English bond with cast-stone trim on its principal facades, and buff brick elsewhere. It is arranged with three-and-a-half bays along West Street and a six-bay pavilion along Jane Street (each bay on each facade having paired

windows on the upper three stories), that are connected to a polygonal corner tower, rising an additional story, and a first-story entrance portico located in front of a one-bay setback to the east of the tower. The plan is arranged around an open light court above the second story. A partial sixth story and elevator bulkhead are located adjacent to (northeast of) the tower. The building is embellished by round-arched windows on the first story and rectangular windows above, most with patterned brick surrounds and/or keystones; a stringcourse or band course above the basement, at the first-story sill level, above the first story, at the second-story sill level, and above the fourth story; and patterned brick panels at the fifth story. The building is surmounted by a denticulated and modillioned cornice. The base of the building has recently been painted. Non-historic anodized aluminum windows have replaced original six-over-one or eight-over-one double-hung wood sash; those on the first story had multi-paned fanlights. Non-historic security lights have been installed along the top of the base and above the cornice. **West Street facade** The base has an entrance at the north end with a molded surround and bracketed entablature (recently painted) and non-historic metal door; two openings covered by non-historic roll-down gates; and a basement entrance with stone steps and a non-historic metal door. The areaway has a non-historic metal railing set on a stone base, and wood bins. Two rondels are between the first-story arched windows. The first story is terminated by a molded band flanked by cartouches bearing fish, anchors, ropes, and buoys. Narrow windows are above the north-end entrance on the first through fourth stories. **Jane Street facade** The base has three entrances with non-historic metal doors and stone steps; two windows covered with mesh; one opening with louvers; an historic iron railing set on a stone base; and wood bins. Stone steps with a brick and concrete (recently painted) cheekwall and a metal mesh screen and gate, lead to a first-story entrance at the east end, which has a non-historic metal door and wood "parapet." The first-story round-arched windows are covered with wood and louvers. Two banner flagpoles were recently placed to the east

of the entrance portico. **Tower** The four-sided, six-story corner tower has a cornerstone on the base with the inscription "A.D. 1907"; three bracketed balconies above the first story; patterned brickwork and round-arched windows on the sixth story; and a secondary cornice and balustrade. The original polygonal, steel-framed and copper-clad beacon, surmounted by a large flagpole, was removed in 1946; presumably at the same time, an original iron railing was removed at the sixth story above the cornice. Three square openings in the base are covered by non-historic roll-down gates and wood. A non-historic security camera has been placed on the first story on West Street; a non-historic electrical connection/wireless antenna box is located between the corner and eastern balconies; and a non-historic neon sign hangs at the second story.

Entrance portico The rectangular entrance portico is flanked by pilasters and columns that support an entablature surmounted by a balustrade ornamented by cartouches bearing anchors, ropes, and wreaths. A non-historic metal sign with the inscription "Hotel Riverview" has been placed on the east side. Stone steps are flanked by historic curved decorative iron railings. The side walls of the portico frame brick-clad panels (recently painted). The entrance has a molded surround, double wood-and-glass doors, and multi-pane sidelights and transom. The ceiling of the portico is clad with Guastavino tiles.³³ The portico is flanked by plaques with original decorative metal sconces. A non-historic curved fabric entrance canopy is supported by metal poles on the sidewalk. **East wall** The side wall, partially visible from the street, is clad in red and buff brick and has the returns of the cornice, band courses, and stringcourses, one bay of windows, an end chimney, and a fire escape. A non-historic security camera has been placed at the Jane Street corner.

Report prepared by
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Research Department

NOTES

1. American Seamen's Friend Society, *The Acts of the Apostles of the Sea: An Eighty Years' Record of the Work of the American Seamen's Friend Society* (N.Y.: ASFS, [1909]) and *Annual Reports* (1879-1903); Douglas C. McMurtrie, *The Work of the American Seamen's Friend Society* (N.Y.: ASFS, 1913) and *Seamen's Institute of the American Seamen's Friend Society* (N.Y.: ASFS, 1914); George S. Webster, *The Seamen's Friend: A*

- Sketch of the American Seamen's Friend Society* (N.Y.: ASFS, 1932); Moses King, *King's Handbook of New York* (Boston: M. King, 1893), 414; I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island* 5 (N.Y.: Robert H. Dodd, 1926), 1770; Robinson map (1885); John A. Kouwenhoven, *Columbia Historical Portrait of New York* (N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1953), 199; Peter Romanofsky, ed., "American Seamen's Friend Society" in *Social Service Organizations* 1 (Westport, CN: Greenwood Pr., 1978), 147-150; Robert Kent, "For Humanity and Right: American Sailors, the Evangelical Reform Movement, and the Limits of Determinism, 1810-1830" (Univ. of Md., 1987).
2. Thompson (1768-1843), an Associate Justice (1802-14) and Chief Justice (1814-18) of the New York Supreme Court, was appointed Secretary of the Navy in 1818 and Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1823, both by President James Monroe. "Smith Thompson," *Dictionary of American Biography* (DAB) 9 (N.Y.: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1936), 471-472.
 3. Leavitt (1794-1873), a Connecticut minister, was involved in the temperance and colonization of freed blacks in Africa movements. He moved to New York City in 1828 to become ASFS' general agent and to edit *The Sailor's Magazine*. He was later editor of the *New York Evangelist* (1831-37), *Emancipator* (1837-48), and *Independent* (1848-73). "Joshua Leavitt," DAB 6 (1933), 84-85.
 4. ASFS, *The Acts...*, 66.
 5. Ibid, 30.
 6. Ibid, 48.
 7. Ibid, 30.
 8. Webster, 74.
 9. ASFS, *Annual Report* (1879), 23.
 10. Federal Writers' Project, "West Street and North (Hudson) River Water Front," *New York City Guide* (N.Y.: Octagon Bks., 1970), reprt. of 1939 edit., 72.
 11. McMurtrie, *Seamen's Inst.*, 3.
 12. Fed. Writers', 68-69.
 13. Webster; NYC, Dept. of Buildings, Manhattan, Plans, Permits and Dockets (NB 582-1907); New York County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances; ASFS, *Annual Reports* (1905-10); "Plans for the New Seamen's Institute, *Real Estate Record & Guide* (REG), Feb. 24, 1906, 326; "Buy Land for Sailors' Home," *New-York Daily Tribune*, Apr. 15, 1906, 5; "Plans for Another Seamen's Home," REG, Apr. 21, 1906, 716; "Mrs. Sage to Give \$150,000 for Seamen," *New York Times* (NYT), Mar. 21, 1907, 2; "Proposed Sailors' Home and Institute in New York," REG, July 13, 1907, 48; "Richard Deeves & Son to Build Seamen's Home," REG, July 27, 1907, 133; "The Seamen's Home" rendering, REG, Jan. 4, 1908, 19; "Largest of Homes for Sailors Opens," NYT, Oct. 8, 1908, 5; McMurtrie, *Seamen's Inst...* and *The Work...*
 14. ASFS, *Annual Report* (1905), 28. Careful plans were made for the new facility, which included a visit by Rev. George McPherson Hunter, general secretary of ASFS (1904-14), to the Jack's Palace (1903) of the British Sailors' Society in London.
 15. Charles Augustus Stoddard (b. 1833) graduated from Union Theological Seminary (1859) and was pastor of the Washington Heights Presbyterian Church from 1859 to 1883. He became associate editor of the *New York Observer* in 1869, and after marrying the owner's daughter became a proprietor in 1873; he later became publisher-editor. He became president of ASFS in 1899. "Charles Augustus Stoddard," *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 7 (N.Y.: D. Appleton & Co., 1901), 255; ASFS, *Annual Report* (1909-10).
 16. Webster, 117.
 17. See: LPC, *Russell Sage Foundation Building and Annex Designation Report* (LP-2065)(N.Y.: City of New York, 2000), prepared by Jay Shockley.

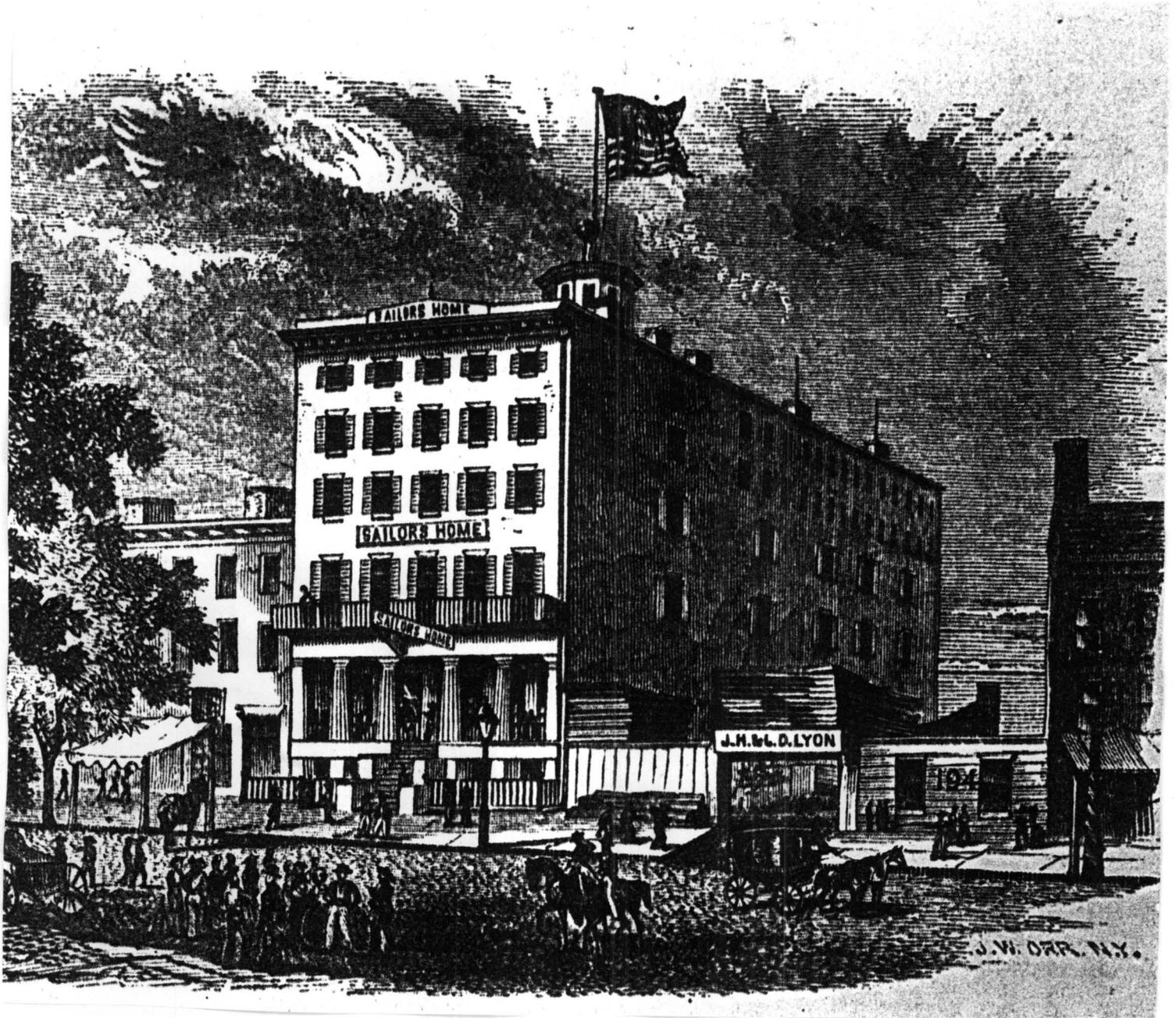
18. Mar. 21, 1907.
19. "Proposed Sailors'..."
20. Webster, 113 and 117.
21. Oct. 8, 1908.
22. Architectural League of New York, *Catalogue of the Twenty-third Annual Exhibition* (1908).
23. George Jean Nathan, "The Greatest Non-Resident Club in the World," *Harper's Weekly*, Mar. 20, 1909, 15.
24. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of New York donated an Italian marble drinking fountain (extant) for the lobby of the building.
25. Nathan.
26. McMurtrie, *Seamen's Inst.*, 5, 8.
27. Nathan.
28. LPC, architects files and *Ellis Island Historic District Designation Report* (LP-1902)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1993), prepared by Anthony Robins and Elisa Urbanelli; Gordon W. Fulton and Henry V. Taves, "Biographical Sketch" and "Design Work of William A. Boring" in *William Alciphron Boring Collection Catalogue* (N.Y.: Columbia Univ., 1980), 3-8 and 149-153; "William Alciphron Boring," *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (NCAB) 14 and 27 (N.Y.: James T. White & Co., 1907 and 1939), 316 and 59-60, and *DAB* 11, suppl. 2 (1958), 53-54; *Edward Lippincott Tilton, F.A.I.A., architect: Tilton and Githens, Boring and Tilton, architects* (N.Y.: Archl. Catalog Co., 1929?); "Edward Lippincott Tilton," *NCAB* 10 (1909), 459, and *DAB* 9 (1936), 549-550; Regina M. Kellerman, ed., *The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront* (N.Y.: New York Univ. Pr., 1989), 77.
29. Edward Tilton worked in 1895-96 on the restoration of the site of the Argive Heraeum at Argos, Greece, for the Archaeological Institute of America. He was a founder and president (1901-02) of the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects; a fellow of the A.I.A.; and a member of the Architectural League and National Sculpture Society. He was responsible for the design of the J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital (1910-11), Huntingdon County, Pa; Central High School, Johnstown, Pa.; and the New Hampshire Fire Insurance Co. Building, Manchester, N.H. Tilton is particularly associated with the design of libraries, credited with over one hundred libraries in the United States and Canada, including over sixty buildings during World War I. Also during the war, he designed over thirty Liberty theaters for army camps. Tilton became the partner of Alfred M. Githens in 1920. Tilton & Githens specialized in the design of libraries and institutional buildings, including the Wilmington Public Library (1922-23), Del., which was awarded the A.I.A. gold medal in 1930; St. Luke's German Evangelical Lutheran Church (1926), 308-316 West 46th Street; Currier Gallery of Art (1927) and United States Post Office, Manchester, N.H.; the Museums of Fine Arts and Natural History (1933), Springfield, Mass.; and Bergen County Administrative Building (1933, with William F. Schwanewede), Hackensack, N.J.
30. N.Y. County; "Sailors' Home Aids 130,038 Men in Year," *NYT*, May 12, 1931, 51; "\$1,000,000 Y.M.C.A. for Seamen Ready," *NYT*, Nov. 1, 1931, 18; ASFS, *Annual Reports* (1932-38); YMCA, *Annual Report* (1924) and *Men of New York* (Sept. 1931-March 1936); *Manhattan Address Directories* (1933-1993).
31. Webster, 118.
32. An innovation here was the inclusion of quarters for both cabin- and bellboys and stewardesses from the liners.
33. See: Janet Parks and Alan G. Neumann, "The Old World Builds New York: Guastavino Construction in Manhattan, 1886-1954," a walking tour guide (N.Y.: Columbia Univ., 2000).

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

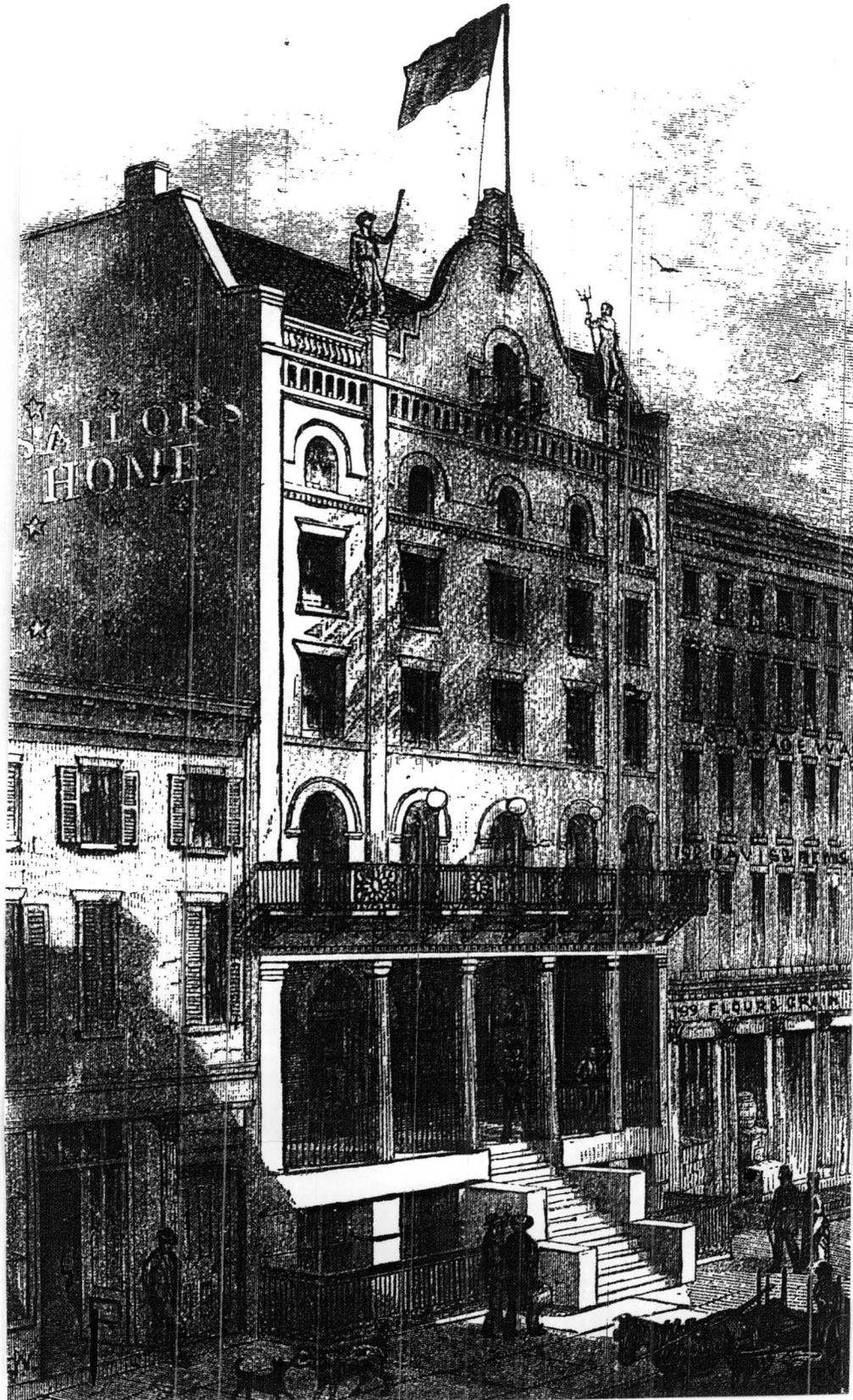
On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute was constructed in 1907-08 to the handsome neo-Classical style design of architect William A. Boring, formerly a partner in Boring & [Edward L.] Tilton, most noted as the firm that won the 1897 competition for new buildings at the U.S. Immigration Station on Ellis Island; that the American Seaman's Friend Society, established in New York City in 1828, was one of a number of nineteenth-century religious organizations concerned with improving the social and moral welfare of seamen throughout the U.S. and abroad; that ASFS, which had operated a Sailors' Home near the East River docks from 1837 to 1903, purchased a lot in 1905 in Greenwich Village amidst the busiest section of the by then more active Hudson River waterfront; that half of the cost of the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute was paid for by a grant from Olivia Sage, one of the world's wealthiest and most important philanthropic women; that the five-story (plus basement and partial sixth story) building, clad in brick and cast stone on its principal facades, is distinctively embellished with a polygonal corner tower, entrance portico, and nautical ornament; that it was called by the *New York Times* "the largest institution of its kind in the world," and was operated as a hotel with numerous amenities for seamen of the commercial merchant marine, as well as a home for indigent sailors, and was intended as an alternative to the waterfront "dives" and sailors' boardinghouses; that after the luxury liner *Titanic* sank in 1912, surviving crew members received care here; that after ASFS joined with the Young Men's Christian and Seamen's Christian Associations in building a new Seamen's House in 1930-31, the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute building became the Seamen's Relief Center annex, which provided free beds and meals to destitute seamen during the Depression and World War II; and that the building, since 1946 a residential and transient hotel, stands out along the Hudson River waterfront as a significant reminder of the era when the Port of New York was one of the world's busiest and half a million seamen docked in the city each year.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, 505-507 West Street (aka 113-119 Jane Street), Borough of Manhattan, and designates Manhattan Tax Map Block 642, Lot 1, as its Landmark Site.



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home (1841-42), 190 Cherry Street
Source: John A. Kouwenhoven, *Columbia Historical Portrait of New York*

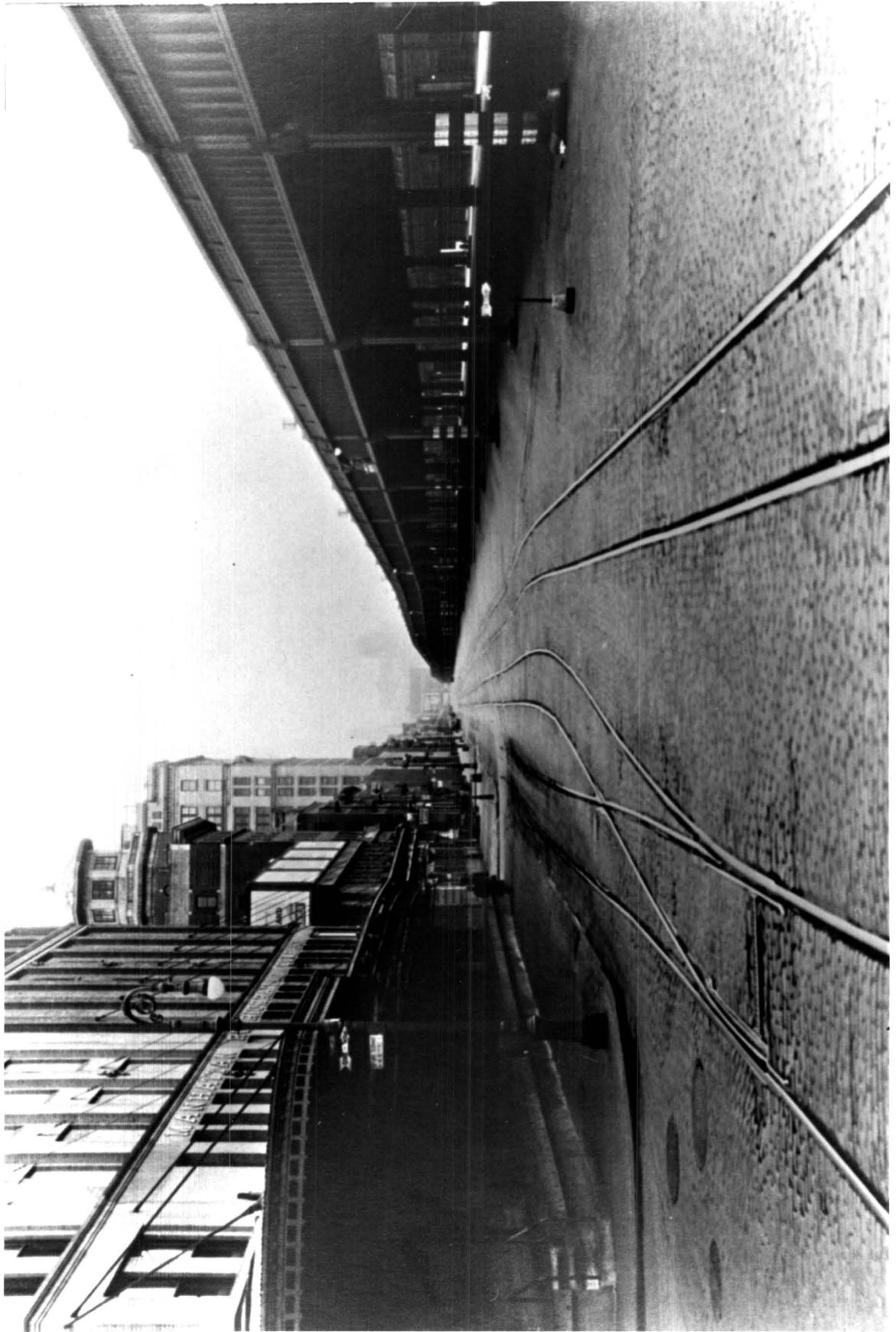


American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home (remodeled 1879-80), 190 Cherry Street

Source: George S. Webster, *The Seamen's Friend: A Sketch of the American Seamen's Friend Society*



Rendering of American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, William A. Boring
Source: *Real Estate Record & Guide*, July 13, 1907



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute and West Street (1935)
Source: N.Y.C. Municipal Archives



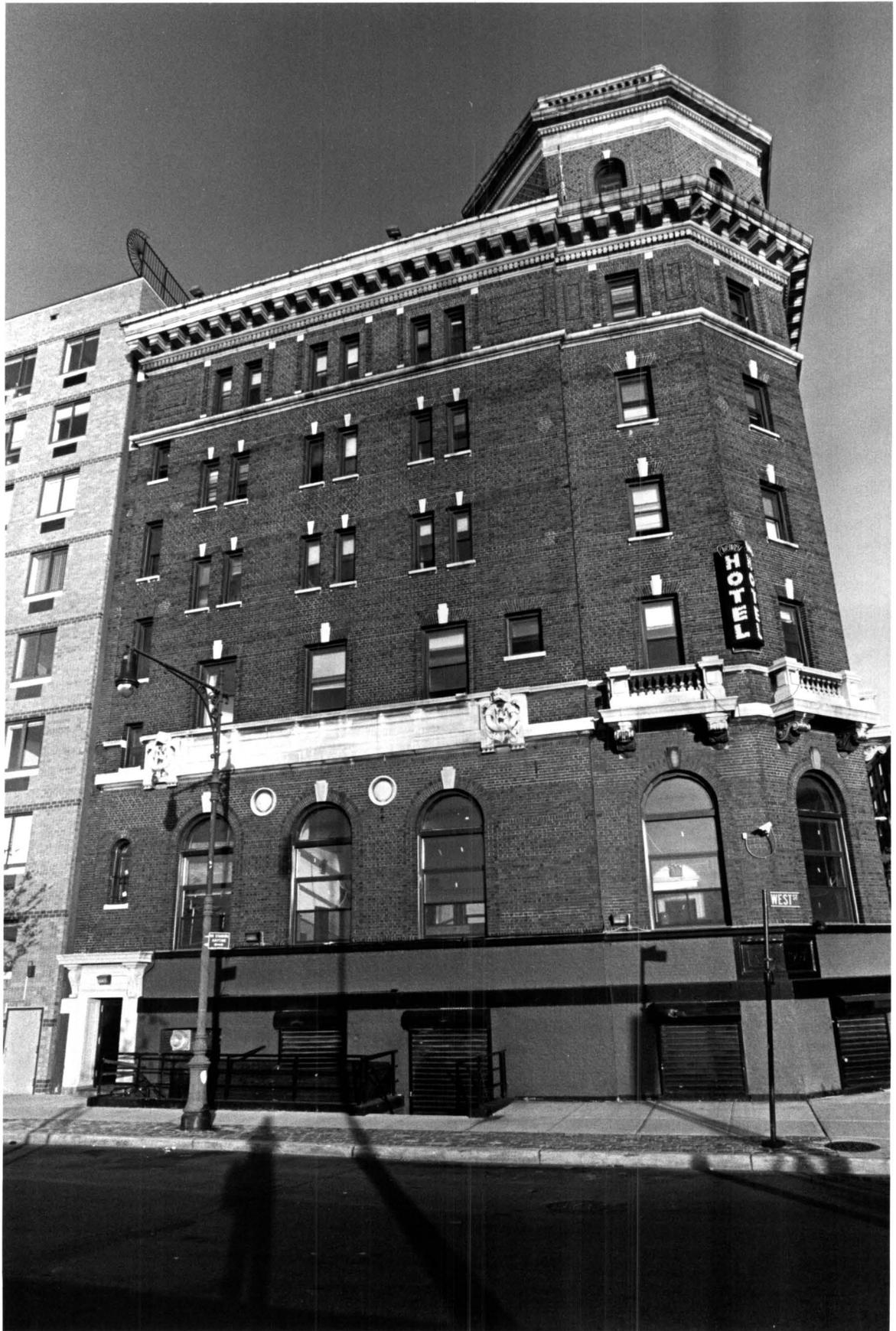
American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute

Source: N.Y.C. Department of Taxes (c. 1938-40), N.Y.C. Municipal Archives



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute (c. 1965)

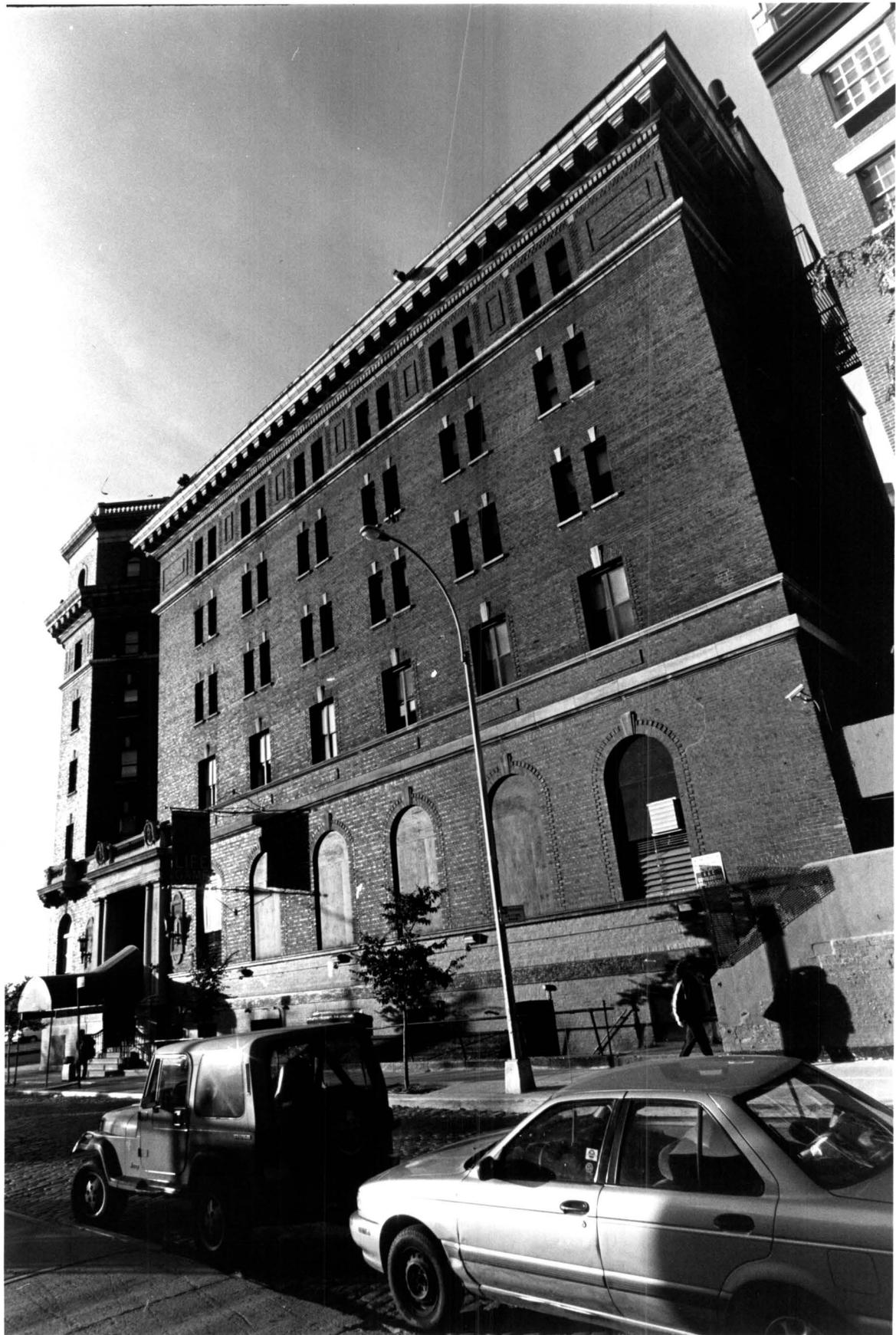
Photo: John B. Bayley



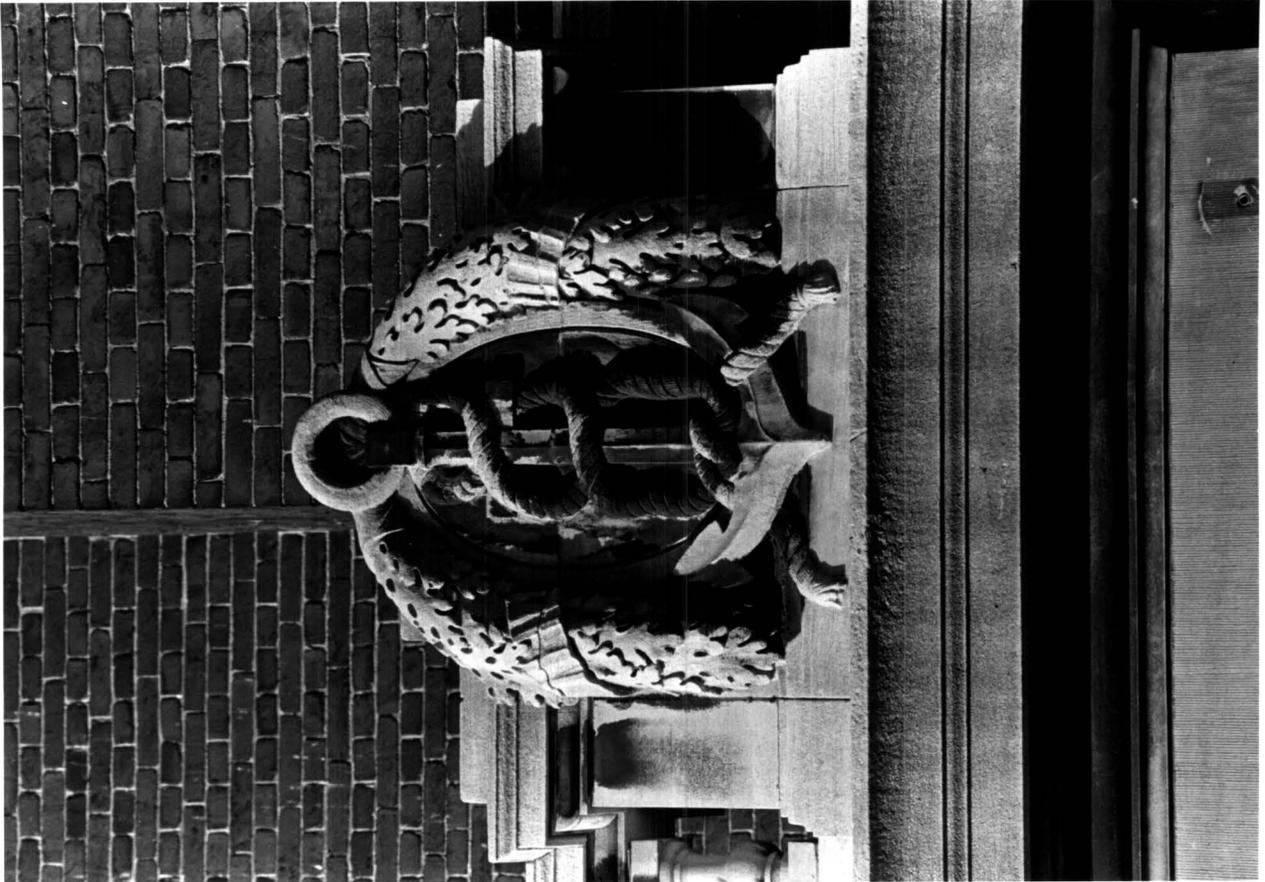
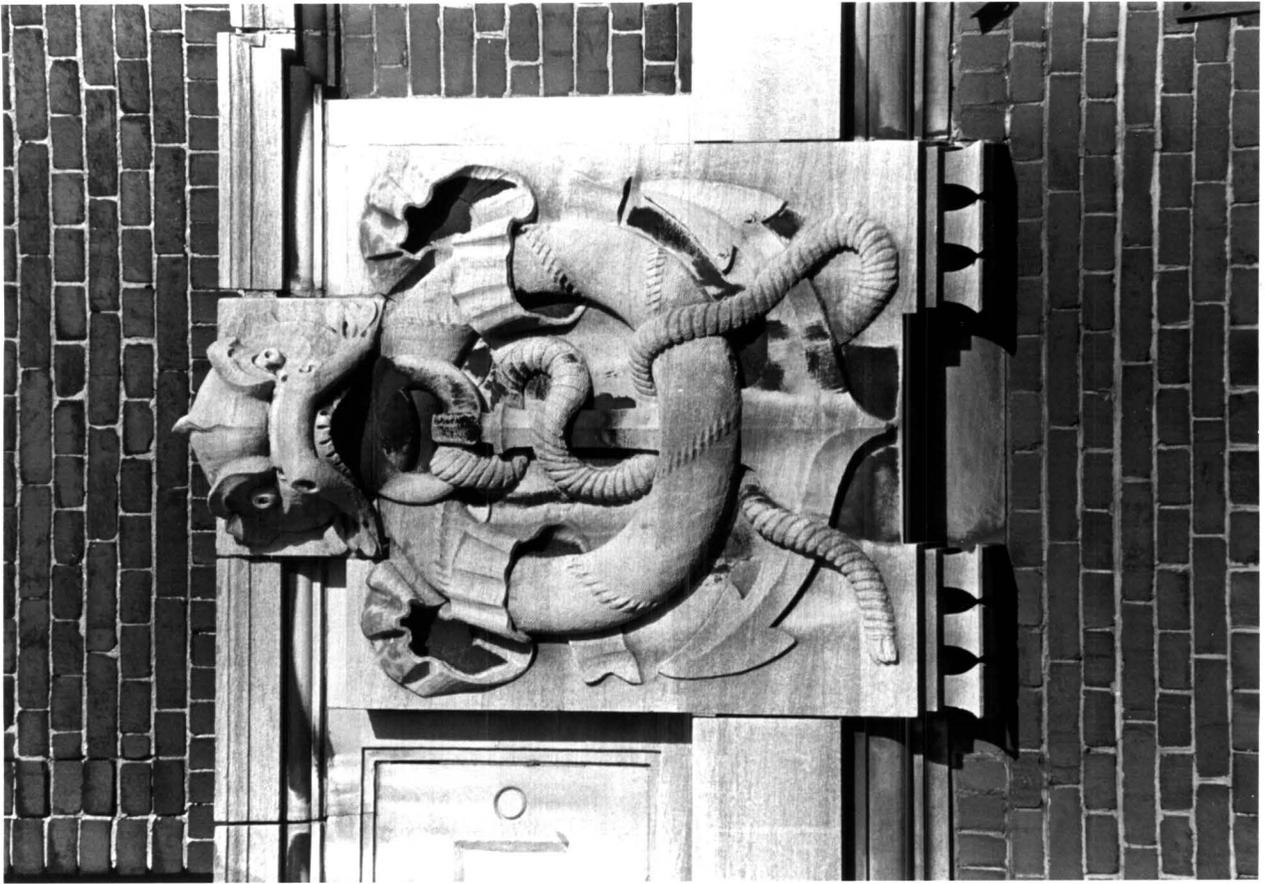
American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, West Street facade
Photo: Carl Forster



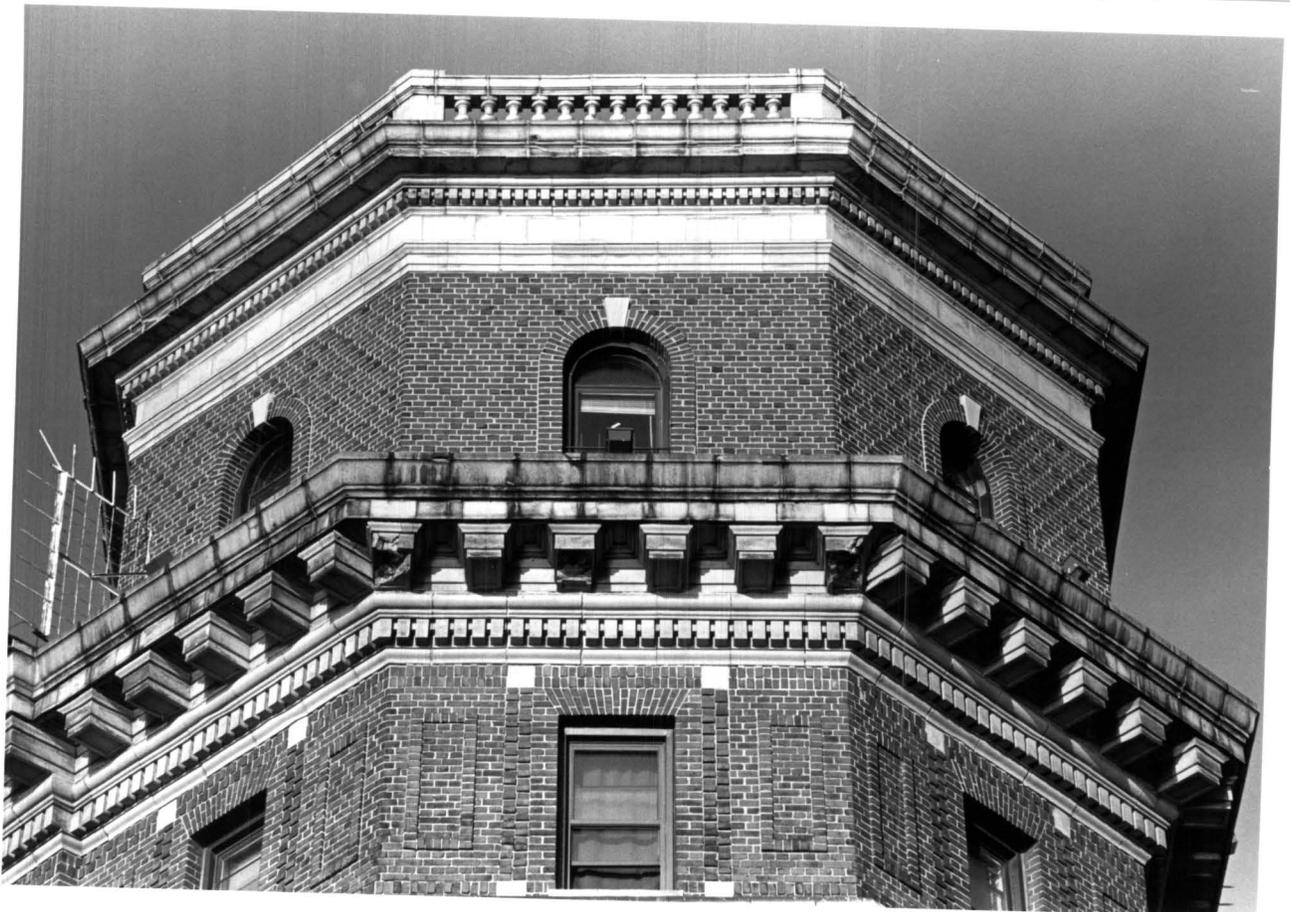
American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, tower and entrance portico
Photo: Carl Forster



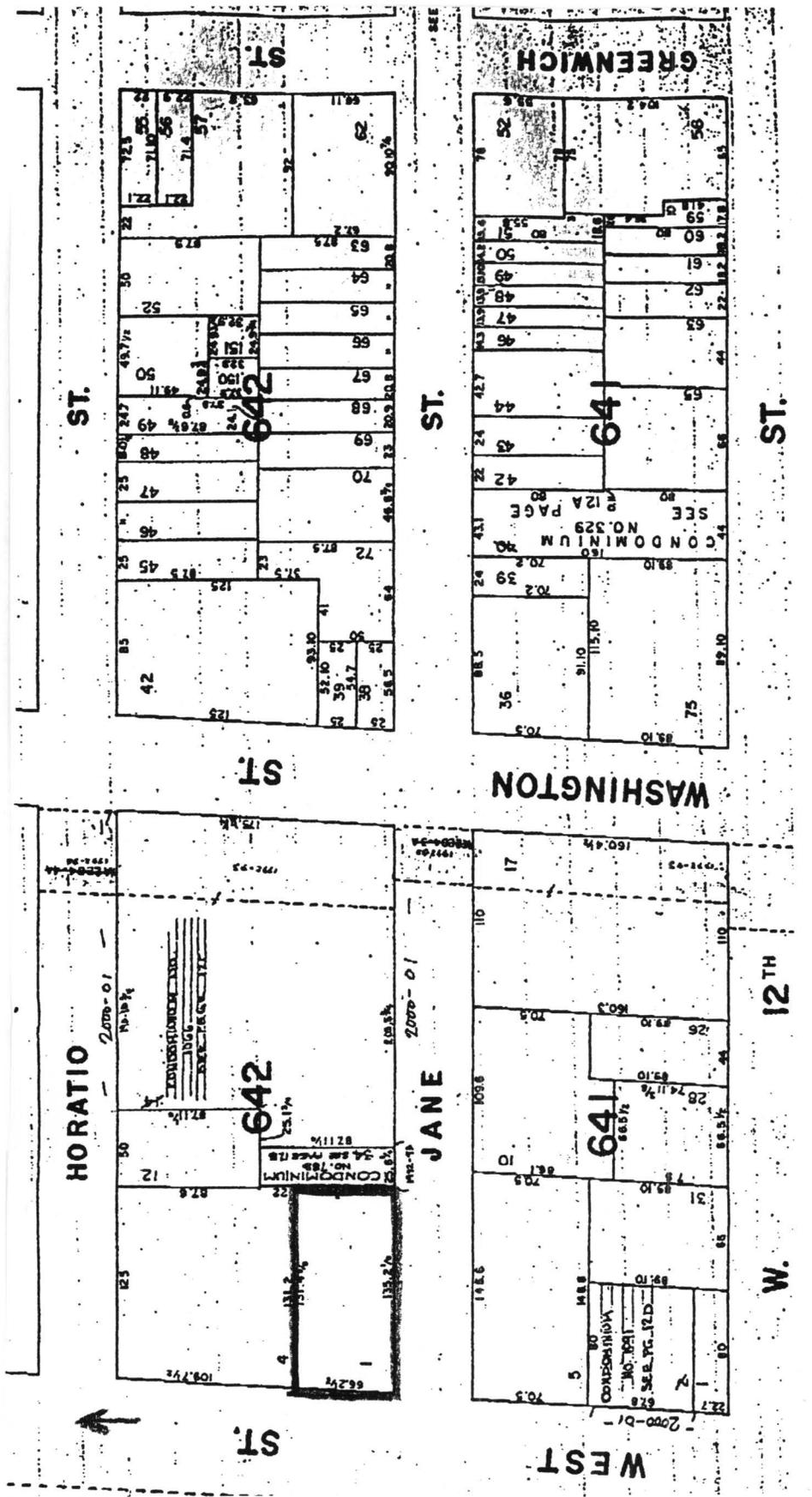
American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, Jane Street facade
Photo: Carl Forster



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, nautical ornament details
Photos: Carl Forster



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute, details
Photos: Carl Forster



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute
 Landmark Site: Manhattan Tax Map Block 642, Lot 1
 Source: Dept. of Finance, City Surveyor, Tax Map



American Seamen's Friend Society Sailors' Home and Institute
 Source: Sanborn, *Manhattan Land Book* (1999-2000), pl. 38