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NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST

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C. Mark Lawton
Director

April 12, 1972

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places
801 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

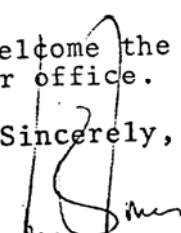
As Chairman of the New York State Historic Trust,
the officially designated State Preservation Agency,
and as the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the
enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic
Places:

Jefferson Market Courthouse, New York County

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved
by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preser-
vation, in accordance with the criteria outlined in Sec-
tion 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the Trust would welcome the opportunity
to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,


Louis C. Jones
Chairman

pink copy



Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Jefferson Market Courthouse	
AND/OR HISTORIC: OFFICE COPY	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 425 Avenue of the Americas			
CITY OR TOWN: New York			
STATE New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: New York	CODE 061

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: see continuation sheet			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: New York County Hall of Records			
STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: New York	STATE New York	CODE 36	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Greenwich Village Historic District Report			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: New York	STATE New York	CODE 36	
Rep. Edward I. Koch			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New York	COUNTY: New York	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Form 10-300a

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORMJefferson Market Courthouse
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

4. Owner of Property

a. Land:

City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York

Code
36

b. Building:

New York Public Library
Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street
New York, N.Y.

36

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jefferson Market Courthouse, though irregular in height, has three and a half stories with a side tower. The principal facade on the Avenue of the Americas is seven bays wide, exclusive of the tower. Sited at the confluence of two streets, the building is basically triangular in plan with a tower at the northernmost point.

The masonry bearing walls are brick construction, with finished brick exteriors trimmed with contrasting bands of stone. The pitched roofs, originally slate, are copper clad.

The main entrance portal on the Avenue is gothic-arched, surmounted by a crocketed gable, and a handsome bas-relief seal decorates the apex of the Avenue of the Americas side. The polygonal base of the tower is surmounted by a series of pointed-arch windows. Above this point, the circular shaft of the tower rises to an iron balcony supported on stone brackets at lock-out level. Crowning the tower are four clocks which are in turn surmounted by a high pyramidal roof.

Extensive interior changes have transformed the original courthouse into a library. The grand stone staircase leading from the first to the second floor remains a focal point in the new plan. It is crowned by an iron spreader and a domical ceiling. Other important features include handsome wood paneling, and door and window enframements. Stained glass windows may be seen in the corridors and stair tower.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Completed 1877

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☒ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☒ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☒ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☒ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jefferson Market Courthouse, long relieved of its judiciary duties, has been the home of the Greenwich Village Branch of the New York Public Library for a number of years, as a result of a successful campaign for its preservation on the part of many concerned residents of the area.

At an early period in the history of New York City, lots were set aside for the sites of public buildings, accomodating a market, a municipal court, a jail and a volunteer fire station in a watch-tower from which fires could be spotted. This area had originally been the site of Jefferson Market. During the 1830s a complex of wooden structures was built to house these civil functions, and early in the 1870s it was decided to replace them with masonry buildings which could occupy the entire block.

Frederick Clark Withers (1828-1901), an English architect who worked in partnership with the noted author and landscape architect, Calvert Vaux, was chosen to draw up the plans for the new buildings. Withers' complex, designed in 1875, included the courthouse and its companion, the Jail, which is now gone. The Jefferson Market is striking in its use of materials of variegated color and texture. The gray granite basement carries the walls of red pressed brick banded with fine grained yellow-gray sandstone. With its picturesque asymmetry and tower, the building is a fine example of English-inspired Victorian Gothic architecture. Elaborate stone carving inside and out enriches its appearance, which is further enhanced by stained glass, plaster-work and carved woodwork.

In 1885, when the Victorian Gothic was losing popularity to the Romanesque Revival and the shingle style, as practiced by McKim, Mead and White and Henry Hobson Richardson, a poll of architects voted the Jefferson Market Courthouse one of the finest buildings in the country.

This signal honor, however, was not sufficient to insure it against the forward-moving stylistic trend and by 1945 it had ceased to be a courthouse and housed a succession of City Agencies in need of temporary quarters.

Now, after a restoration by architect Giorgio Cavaglieri, who has carefully integrated the original elements of the structure with the modern character required for its conversion to library use, the Jefferson Market Courthouse remains a prominent feature in the Village with a new and permanent usefulness.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
 Historic American Buildings Survey. "Third Judicial District
 Courthouse." New York City Architecture. Selections
 from the Historic American Buildings Survey. Number Seven.
 Washington, D. C.: U. S. Department of Interior, 1969,
 pp. 17-29.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 44' 06"	73° 59' 58"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

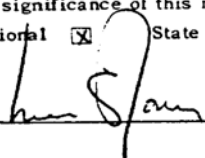
NAME AND TITLE:	
<u>Stephen S. Lash, Associate</u>	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission</u>	<u>Feb., 1972.</u>
STREET AND NUMBER:	
<u>305 Broadway</u>	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
<u>New York</u>	<u>New York</u>
	CODE
	<u>36</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name


Title Chairman, New York State

Historic Trust

Date 10 16 72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Jefferson Market Courthouse

