

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic 37 East 4th Street House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 37 East 4th Street not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of congressional district 18

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
		<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Poe Kim

street & number 37 East 4th Street

city, town New York vicinity of state New York

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New York County Register's Office

Surrogate's Court Building

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York state New York

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmarks Preservation Commission <sup>LP-0646</sup> has this property been determined eligible?    yes    ☒ no

date August 1970    federal    state    county    ☒ local

depository for survey records 305 Broadway

city, town New York state New York 10017

**7. Description****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**

The dignified Greek Revival brick rowhouse at 37 East 4th Street is three-and-a-half stories high and three bays wide. While it is only 26 feet wide the house is unusually deep. A high stoop over a stone basement which still retains traces of rustication, leads to a handsome doorway with full entablature supported by a pair of Ionic columns, a typically Greek Revival feature. The doorway, set behind the plane of the wall with paneled reveals to create a depth of shadow, is flanked by blocked-up sidelights set between paired square pilasters. A rectangular three-paned transom surrounded by waterleaf and bead and reel molding crowns the doorway. The windows now have plain stone lintels and sills although traces of the original cap moldings remain above the third story windows. Other original features typical of the Greek Revival style include the third story six-over-six windows, low attic windows, and simple wood cornice with plain fascia. Although none of the original ironwork remains, fragments indicate that it was identical with the existing ironwork of the nearby Old Merchants House at No. 29 E. 4th Street.

The interior has been converted into apartments but much of the original woodwork remains including floors, door and window enframements and the hall stair.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1845

Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The East 4th Street house is one of only two Greek Revival residences that have survived in the area, which in the 1840s was one of the most fashionable residential neighborhoods in the city. Developed between 1820 and 1840, the streets were lined with three and four-story row houses occupied by some of New York's best-known citizens including Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison; General Winfield Scott, hero of the Mexican War and Samuel B. Ruggles, real estate developer. Around the corner, on Lafayette Place, was William B. Astor's residence. On the west side, across that street, stood Colonnade Row, the most elegant terrace in New York. Franklin H. Delano, grandfather of Franklin Delano Roosevelt owned Number 39, and Washington Irving spent winters at number 33.<sup>1</sup> Also nearby was Vauxhall Gardens, a favorite summer evening resort since 1805, offering band music, theatrical performances, fireworks, cakes and ale. The area to the north was still largely undeveloped at the time the house was built. Grace Church, at Tenth Street and Broadway, was then in the process of construction. Within a few years, however, the Astor Library was erected on the east side of Lafayette Place, followed by Cooper Union, in 1857.

The house at Number 37 East 4th Street was built in 1845 for Samuel Tredwell Skidmore, a prominent businessman and cousin of Seabury Tredwell, whose house is Number 29. At the time he built the house, Skidmore was engaged in the wholesale drug business, under the firm name of Skidmore & Co. Later he served as president of the Howard Insurance Company, at 66 Wall Street, and as a trustee of the U.S. Trust Company. He served as vestryman of Trinity Church from 1874 to 1880. Together with his wife, Angelina, and their eight children, Skidmore lived in this house (known successively as No. 369, then as No. 385 Fourth Street, and finally as No. 37 East 4th Street) for almost four decades. In 1883, after Skidmore's death on November 8, 1881, his widow sold the house.

By the early twentieth century, the area had become almost entirely commercial; today 37 East 4th Street survives as a reminder of the former stylish residential area.

1. Charles Lockwood, Manhattan Moves Uptown, Boston: Houghton & Mifflin Co., 1976.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 585100 4508780  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Manhattan Tax Map Block 544, Lot 67.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

Contact, Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph, 518-474-0479, Div. for Historic Pres.  
name/title Darlene McCloud, Research Consultant for Joan R. Olshansky, National Register  
Coordinator

organization New York Landmarks Preservation Commission date   

street & number 305 Broadway telephone 212-566-7577

city or town New York state New York

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau date 10/29/79

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

HD-R-7000A

HR-8-300A

11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

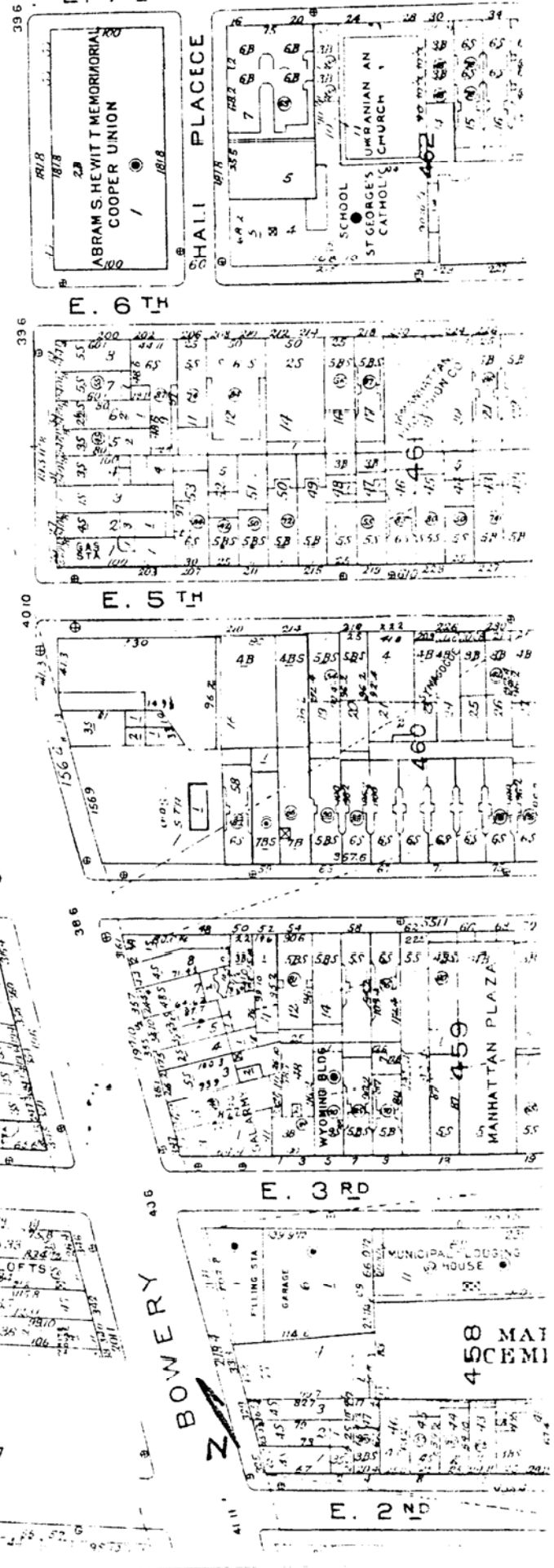
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A more complete bibliography may be found in the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission research file: 37 East 4th Street.

Landmarks Preservation Commission East 4th Street House Designation Report (LP-0646).  
New York: City of New York, 1970.

Lockwood, Charles. Manhattan Moves Uptown. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976.

EAST 4th STREET HOUSE  
New York County, N.Y.  
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 23  
New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1977



37 EAST 4th STREET HOUSE  
New York, New York  
UTM Reference:  
18/ 585100/ 4508780

