

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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

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# 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 Bond Street Bank; German Exchange Bank

and/or common Bowerie Lane Theater

## 2. Location

street & number 330 Bowery

not for publication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   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Ms. Honey Waldman Bowerie Lane Corp.

street & number 330 Bowery

city, town New York

vicinity of

state New York 10012

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York

state New York

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmarks Preservation Commission LP-0192

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1967

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Landmarks Preservation Commission, 305 Broadway

city, town New York

state New York 10007

## 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 Bowery Lane Theater, originally the Bond Street Bank, on the northwest corner of The Bowery and Bond Street on Manhattan's Lower East Side, is built on the conventional 25-by-100 foot New York City building lot. The narrow lot was commonly used for row houses while institutions and other important structures generally were erected on wider lots. The Bowery Lane Theater site posed the difficult design problem of uniting the long frontage on Bond Street and the comparatively narrow Bowery facade into an impressive bank structure. Designed by Henry Engelbert, the building is an example of cast-iron architecture in the French Second Empire style.

The five-story, cast-iron structure has three bays which face The Bowery and eleven which face Bond Street. On The Bowery side a high stoop leads to the main entrance which is framed with a keystone arch and columns, the lower third of which are encrusted with a repeated anthemion design. The central bay on the second floor is accented with free-standing columns set on bases connected with a balustrade. The columns support a modillioned pediment, the entablature of which is presently covered. Quoins frame The Bowery facade and attached columns divide it into bays. The projecting cornice which caps the building is covered on The Bowery facade.

On the Bond Street side, quoins divide the facade into a large center section flanked on either side by a two-bay wide section and by a single-bay section. The central five-bay section is articulated with paired columns. Single and paired pilasters ornament the two-bay sections and single columns grace the end bays. The rectangular and arched window openings and the second floor pediment echo The Bowery facade. Secondary entrances and first floor windows on the Bond Street facade were blocked-up when the building was converted to a theater.

To unify the facades horizontally, cornices ornamented with triglyphs on the first floor, modillions on the second floor, and dentils on the third and fourth floors run continuously around both elevations at each floor. A widely-projecting bracketed cornice caps the building; it is surmounted by a roof pediment on the Bond Street facade.

The building was used as a bank until the 1940s when it was used as a textile converting plant. In 1963 the building was converted for use as a theater, with residential studios above. At that time the 75-ton granite vault, one-and-a-half stories high, was removed. Some of the original interior features remain in the entrance hall of the Bowery: a set of wooden double doors, the wooden window surrounds on the east wall of the first floor, and a teller's window which has found adaptive reuse as a ticket window for the theater. Some of the original wooden pilasters have been incorporated into the theater.

## 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** 1874

**Builder/Architect** Henry Engelbert

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bouwerie Lane Theater is an exceptionally fine example of cast-iron construction. The elaborate detail of the facades is a notable expression of the French Second Empire style adapted to cast-iron architecture, and the building is an excellent example of a skillful design for a difficult site.

Built on Manhattan's infamous Bowery, the building housed a bank and later a textile firm. In 1963, it was converted into a theater, foreshadowing a dynamic renaissance for the many 19th-century commercial and industrial buildings in Lower Manhattan.

Architect Henry Engelbert designed the building in 1873-1874 for the Bond Street Bank. Later it became the office of the German Savings Bank. Engelbert, active in New York City from 1852-1879, first appears in New York City Directories in 1852-1853 where he was listed as an architect working with another architect, John Edson, at 85 Nassau Street. Their association was brief, lasting only five years. The earliest known work designed by these men was the brownstone First Baptist Church built in 1856 on the south-east corner of Fifth Avenue and East 35th Street in the Early Romanesque Revival style (demolished). The building attracted attention and favorable comment at the time of its completion. Engelbert, who worked in a number of popular revival styles, designed a variety of building types including churches, institutions, stables, loft buildings, tenements, rowhouses, and hotels. Probably one of his most prestigious ecclesiastical commissions was the reconstruction of Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral after it was damaged by fire in 1866. One of his more interesting domestic projects was a pair of early Second Empire style apartment houses and a private residence still standing on a double corner lot in Greenwich Village. The plans, drawn in 1868, are innovative in their use of attic space as common yard for tenants. Engelbert's handsome Second Empire Grand Hotel, built of marble in 1868, still graces the southeast corner of Broadway and West 31st Street. The extant examples of his work indicate that he was a talented architect of the period with the ability to create fine designs in a number of styles. In 1879, Engelbert closed his New York office, and nothing is known of his life or career after that date.<sup>1</sup>

Engelbert skillfully designed the impressive Bond Street Bank building by uniting the long Bond Street facade with a narrow twenty-five foot front on the more important Bowery facade. The elegant facades designed in the French Second Empire style use an intricate pattern of single and paired columns and pilasters to articulate pleasing horizontal and vertical rhythms. The wealth of ornamental detail, with its plastic, almost sculptured effect, makes this building an unusually fine example of cast iron used as a building material.

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(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

CONTINUATION SHEET      Bouwerie Lane  
Theater  
N.Y. County      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

The Bouwerie Lane Theater, which has been used as a bank, a loft building and finally a theater and loft-residence, remains today as one of the finest cast-iron structures in New York City.

<sup>1</sup>Landmarks Preservation Commission, College of Mount St. Vincent Administration Building Designation Report (LP-1014), by James Dillon (New York: City of New York, 1979), p. 2.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 8 5 8 5 6 0 0 4 5 0 8 5 8 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B                          
Zone Easting Northing

C                                                

D                                                

E                                                

F                                                

G                                                

H                                                

Verbal boundary description and justification

Property occupies Manhattan Tax Map Block 530, Lot 41.  
See attached Map.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Darlene McCloud, Research Consultant Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph  
For Joan R. Olshansky, National Register Coordinator 518-474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date August, 1979

street & number 305 Broadway telephone (212) 566-7577

city or town New York state New York 10007

## 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 *Stephen J. Hinkle*

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

date 2/21/80

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

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(11/78)

(11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Bouwerie Lane

Theater

N.Y. County

ITEM NUMBER 9

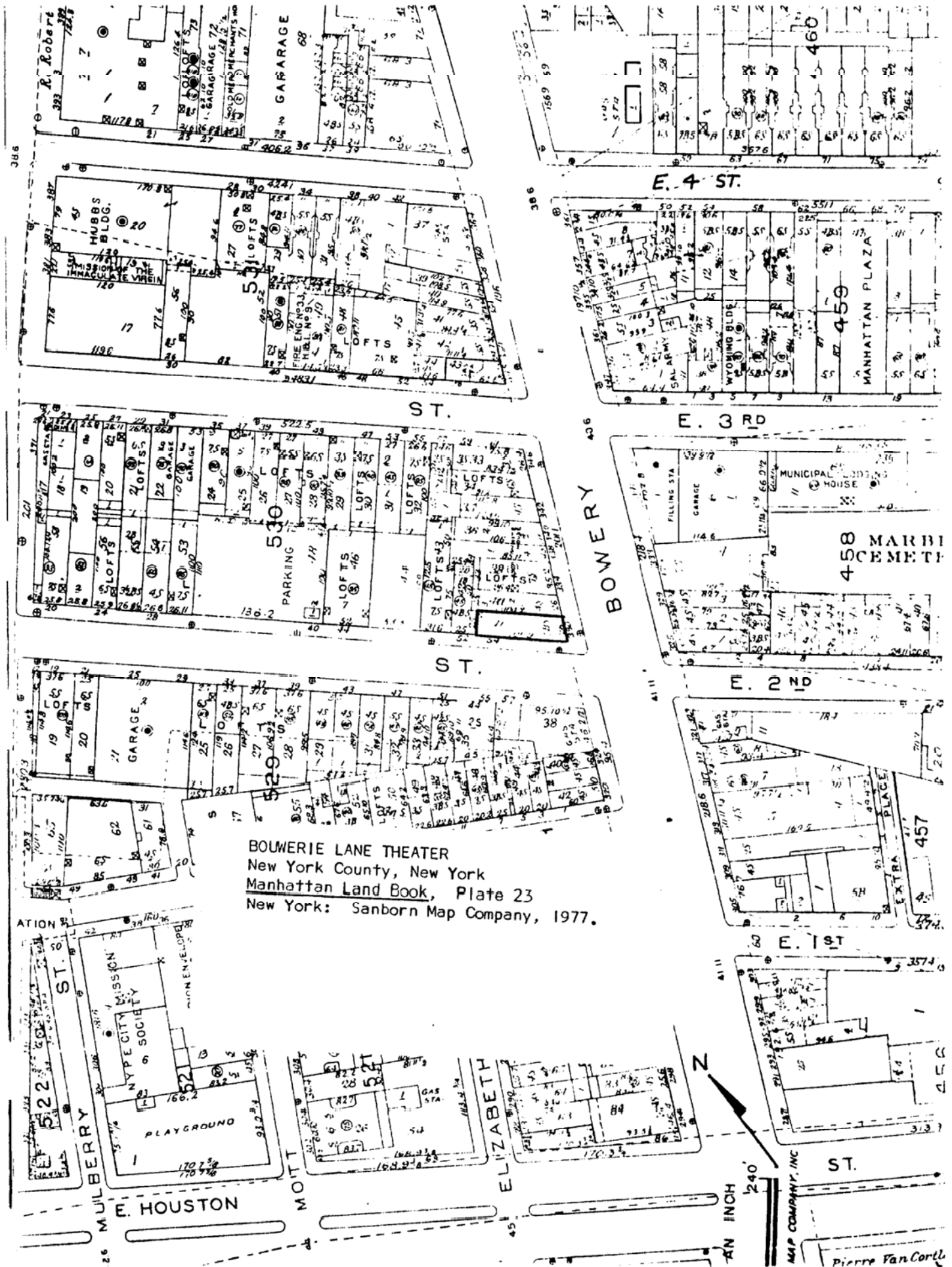
PAGE 1

Gayle, Margot. Cast Iron Architecture in New York. New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1974.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Bouwerie Lane Theater Designation Report (LP-0192). New York: City of New York, 1967.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. College of Mount St. Vincent Administration Building Designation Report (LP-1014), by James Dillon. New York: City of New York, 1979.

New York Times. May 23, 1965. VIII, 1:4.



BOUWERIE LANE THEATER  
New York County, New York  
Manhattan Land Book, Plate 23  
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1977.



**COMMENTS**

Brooklyn's Quad

