

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1152

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name New York Bible Society

other names/site number Swedish Seaman's Church

#### 2. Location

street & number 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street [ ] not for publication

city or town Manhattan [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10017

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide  locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ruth A Purpant DBHP  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/12/13  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Wilson H Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

2.5.14  
date of action

[ ] removed from the National Register

[ ] other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup>

CENTURY REVIVIALS/

Late-Gothic revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Limestone

roof Asphalt

other Bronze

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

**Period of Significance:**

1921 – 1963

**Significant Dates:**

1921

**Significant Person:**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

Wilfred Edwards Anthony (architect)

H.H. Vought & Co. (builder)



New York Bible Society  
Name of Property

New York County, New York  
County and State

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Swedish Seamen's Church

street & number 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Manhattan state NY zip code 10017

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

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New York Bible Society  
Name of Property  
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**Narrative Description of Property:**

The New York Bible Society is located within a major commercial district near Fifth Avenue in the borough of Manhattan in New York City. Situated on the middle of the north side of East 48<sup>th</sup> Street between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue, it forms the end of a row of five-to-six story, early twentieth century commercial buildings that extend to the edge of the sidewalk. Tower 49, a 58-story commercial office building designed by Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill and built in 1984 is located immediately to the east. Set back from the lot line to create a small courtyard, Tower 49 is among the tallest buildings for several blocks. To the west is a six-story commercial building built around 1920. The Bible society building faces four five-to-seven story buildings and a seventeen-story glass office tower, which fronts on Fifth Avenue, on the south side of East 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The New York Bible Society building occupies a rectangular parcel that is half as deep as the block. The nominated parcel is the original lot associated with the building.

A row of five-story brownstone-fronted rowhouses constructed in 1871 lined the north side of East 48<sup>th</sup> Street through the early twentieth century. The New York Bible Society purchased the rowhouse at 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street and obtained an alteration permit for the property in 1920. Little, if any, of the original building remains. Contemporary writers described the Bible society building as new construction, rather than an adaptation or alteration of the former building.

The New York Bible Society building is a four-story, streamlined neo-Gothic building with a smooth, limestone façade. Only the façade and east elevations are visible; the west elevation abuts the neighboring building. The building is technically six stories in height, but has only four floors; each of the first two stories is double height to create a more open, church-like interior on the public floors. The façade is divided into a wide, central bay flanked by two, slightly projecting, symmetrical outer bays. Each of these bays is inset on the first two floors, culminating in arched windows. On the first floor, double wooden doors with steel windows are located in each of the outer bays. These doors are highlighted by a pointed arch and stone transom. In the transom over the western door, the carving features a shield with an alpha and omega symbol in the center and reads: *Thy Word is Truth*. The transom over the eastern door has a shield with a cross in the center and reads: *Preach The Word*. A pair of rectangular, five-by-four pane casement windows is located above each door within the double height of the first floor. Each of the panes of the steel windows on the façade is divided by smaller glass panels with lead work. Within the central bay, a bronze, rounded bay window projects from the first floor. The bay window is divided into three vertical sections. The lowest section has five four-by-six fixed leaded glass windows; the middle section has three four-by-five fixed leaded glass windows with leaded circular windows flanked by two four-over-four windows; the upper section has five four-over-four fixed leaded glass windows. The bay window is crowned by a rounded bronze frieze with the words *New York // Church of Sweden // Talcott Building* in bronze. The *Church of Sweden* was added in 1978 to replace *Bible Society*. On the second story, three lancet windows stretch the entire height of the second floor. The window in the central bay is slightly more rounded and is divided by mullions into three sections and has two six lobed foils surrounded by tracery at the peak. The flanking windows are divided into two sections and have only one six lobed foil. Clear, leaded glass fills in the tracery. Fixed steel-frame windows with an upper, operable steel casement are recessed into each arch.

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The third and fourth floors have a simpler, more streamlined appearance. Each outside bay on the third floor has a narrow, seven-by-three steel frame rectangular window divided by a limestone transom with a fixed, square, three-by-three steel-frame window above. The central, third floor bay has a limestone balcony with a limestone Bible with the words *And God Spake all these words* carved into it. Two pairs of seven-by-three windows divided by a limestone transom with a fixed, square, three-by-three steel-frame window above are behind the balcony. On the fourth floor, each outside bay has one large round arched window divided into two arches with foils. The windows are six-by-three steel casements with divided glass panels and lead work. The fourth floor has three five-by-three rectangular steel windows divided by a limestone transom with three four-by-three steel rectangular windows above. The two outside bays have subtle, projecting triangular pediments and culminate in hexagonal towers with a central small round arch window. Within the central bay, a parapet wall fills the space between the two towers at the rooftop. The parapet wall has four diamond cutouts with quatrefoil tracery. Behind the parapet is a roof patio. Originally, a hexagonal spire topped with a sphere projected from a shed roof that spanned the two towers. It has since been removed, likely due to instability.

The east elevation originally abutted a neighboring building and was not visible. The demolition of this building and the 1984 construction of Tower 49, which is set back from the lot line, exposed the east elevation. The entire elevation is covered in smooth limestone panels and has no decoration. On the third and fourth floor, three modern windows are cut into the wall; these were added after 1984.

Much of the original interior appears to exist intact. The first floor is divided into a public reading room, a coffee shop, and offices; the second floor is separated into a chapel, conference room, and prayer room. On the first floor, the western-most doorway serves as the public entrance. Within the entry vestibule, a bronze plaque dedicated to James Talcott is on the left-hand side. A door to the right from the vestibule leads to the double height reading room. The bronze bay window and smaller four-by-five windows bring light into the interior space. An original clock is built into a wooden frame over the second entrance on the façade, which leads directly into the reading room. The original built-in, wooden bookshelves line the walls of the reading room. A wide, wooden frieze along the top of the bookshelves is filled with short verses from the Bible hand-painted in a Gothic-style font. Many of the verses specifically mention the scripture, the word of God, or God's law. The reading room has an additional raised level which is reached by a short staircase. The additional level is screened by a wrought iron railing. The bookshelves on this raised level are not an exact match to those in the main room; it is likely that this level was added later to provide additional space. After the Swedish Seaman's Church purchased the building in 1978, it added a small café to the rear of the space and created a few small offices that are closed off to the public.

A set of stairs leads to the second floor from the vestibule. The main feature of the second floor is the assembly space and chapel. The large, arched windows allow light into the chapel, an assembly area now used for Lutheran services. Within the chapel, individual chairs are set on the wooden floors. There are three steps to the slightly raised altar. Dark wooden beams with fern and floral paintings cross the ceiling horizontally within the chapel space. The organ was added by the Swedish Seaman's Church. The original assembly room spanned the entire length of the building. At some point, it was divided to create an entrance lobby and conference room at the back in addition to the chapel. A small prayer room is also located on the second floor. The third and fourth floors were originally used as office space, and are currently rented as private residences.

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**Statement of Significance:**

The New York Bible Society Building, constructed in 1920-1921, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the social and religious history of the New York Bible Society. It is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of a streamlined neo-Gothic building in New York City. The second-oldest Bible society established in the United States, the New York Bible Society provided free Bibles in dozens of languages to individuals living in and passing through New York and its Harbor. The organization grew substantially around the turn of the twentieth century to accommodate the needs of immigrants and soldiers. Designed by architect Wilfred E. Anthony, the New York Bible Society building at 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street was built in 1920-1921. The New York Bible Society building's streamlined Gothic design with religious and commercial architectural elements was a strikingly modern departure for Anthony and is one of his most innovative designs.

The concept of a Bible society, an organization which translates, publishes, and distributes the Bible cheaply or free of charge, was first established in England in 1804. The founders were initially particularly concerned about the lack of affordable Welsh Bibles in the country; within several years, the scope of the organization expanded to the British colonies. The idea of providing free Bibles to disadvantaged groups spread quickly. The Pennsylvania Bible Society, the first Bible society in America, was established in December 1808.<sup>1</sup>

The New York Bible Society was organized by community leaders in Manhattan in December 4, 1809. The society's mission was to make Bibles available to all classes of society, with a particular focus on transient and lower class individuals such as sailors, seamen, immigrants, prisoners, and pioneers heading west. During the 1830s, the society had grown large enough to expand their services and begin providing translated Bibles for immigrants and placing Bibles in hotel rooms for travelers.<sup>2</sup>

By the 1870s, the Bible society had established its main office at 66 Bible House, Astor Place. To better reach the groups they were targeting, the New York Bible Society also had a Marine Department at 32 South Street on the East River.<sup>3</sup> The missionaries at the station reached sailors on hundreds of vessels every month. Additionally, they sent Bibles to the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, to hospitals, and to the blind. In 1892, the society opened a station at Ellis Island to welcome new emigrants. On average, they provided 160,000 Bibles in 65 different languages each year until Ellis Island closed in 1954.

The society relied on donations and the proceeds from the sale of Bibles at its main office to sustain its mission. Through its quarterly report, "The Bible in New York," the society kept donors apprised of its continuing missions and shared inspirational stories. For example, the report included a story of a soldier whose

<sup>1</sup> Bible Society, "About Bible Society," available at <<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/>>; Pennsylvania Bible Society, "Timeline History of the Pennsylvania Bible Society," available at <[http://pabible.org/timeline\\_history.html](http://pabible.org/timeline_history.html)>.

<sup>2</sup> "Bible Sunday," *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918); Biblica, "Timeline," available at <<http://www.biblica.com/images/pdfs/IBStimeline.pdf>>; Biblica, "History of Biblica," available at <<http://www.biblica.com/biblica-about-us/history/>>.

<sup>3</sup> "Marine Department," *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918).



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New York Bible Society  
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life was saved when the Bible in his breast pocket stopped a bullet. Particularly during World War I, the majority of donations were in honor or memory of soldiers lost in the conflict, or by individuals hoping to provide hope and comfort to men on the front lines. Testaments came in khaki for soldiers and blue for sailors and cost twenty cents each to make.<sup>4</sup>

In 1918, at the height of World War I, the organization distributed more than 472,000 volumes.<sup>5</sup> Though it was certainly augmented by the society's efforts to reach soldiers, this figure also reflected increased immigration and the growing progressive interest in disabled and inner city poor. The society's promotional materials reflected what they perceived as the dual religious and patriotic mission of their work. They reached out to churches and individual donors, encouraging them to "Buy a Liberty Bond and give it to the New York Bible Society for Testaments for Soldiers and Sailors in the Debarkation Camps and Hospitals. They are still calling for them. You help Twice—Our Country and our work."<sup>6</sup> However, the society put their religious mission first; they described sending German Bibles to captive enemy soldiers in their quarterly report.<sup>7</sup>

As the Bible society's missions and staffing needs increased, it became clear that the office on Astor Place was insufficient for the purposes of the growing organization. Henrietta E. Francis Talcott, a trustee and founder of Barnard College, donated \$250,000 to the New York Bible Society in 1917.<sup>8</sup> Her husband James Talcott, a wealthy dry goods merchant and founder of James Talcott, Inc., had died the year before. Henrietta donated the funds in his honor.<sup>9</sup>

The donation was perfectly timed to meet the needs of the society, and its leaders began making plans to purchase or build a new headquarters. In 1919, they moved to a larger, temporary space at 675 Madison Avenue at 61<sup>st</sup> Street which was easily accessible on the Madison Avenue street car.<sup>10</sup> Within the next year, the society began working with architect Wilfred Edwards Anthony and chose a site. By the time the society purchased the rowhouse at 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street on July 7, 1920, it must have had most of its plans in place. It quickly obtained an alteration permit, and proceeded to demolish much of the existing building. By November, "the front of the building [was] up" and the plasterers were already beginning their work. The Bible Society Building was built by H. H. Vought & Co., and Mr. Challoux was superintendent of construction. The electrical was completed by Edwards Electrical Construction Co; painting and decorating were by Aug. E. F. Kaeufer; interior woodwork was made by Harris, McHenry, & Baker Co.; doors were done by Park, Winton, & True Co., Inc.; and sheet and metal work were completed by New York Cornice Work.<sup>11 12</sup>

<sup>4</sup> "From our Correspondents," *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918).

<sup>5</sup> *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918).

<sup>6</sup> *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918).

<sup>7</sup> "From our Correspondents," *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918).

<sup>8</sup> "Mrs. Talcott Left \$3,683,579 Estate," *New York Times*, 6 April 1923.

<sup>9</sup> William Hurd Hillyer, *James Talcott, Merchant, and his times* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937).

<sup>10</sup> *The Bible in New York* 11 (August 1919).

<sup>11</sup> William P. Comstock, *Architecture and Building* 53 (1921).

<sup>12</sup> *The Bible in New York* 11 (November 1918).

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Wilfred Edwards Anthony had become a specialist in Gothic Revival architecture while he was working for the firm of Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson. By the late 1910s, Anthony left the firm to establish an office of his own. Anthony designed a number of religious buildings, particularly for the Catholic Church, in New York City over the course of his career. He also designed a number of new facades, typically in revival styles, for rowhouses. Though he is known for blending the Gothic aesthetic with other styles, notably at his Arts-and-Crafts/Gothic St. Catherine of Sienna Church on East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Anthony's Streamlined Gothic Revival New York Bible Society is his most innovative and modern design.

Constrained by the size, shape, and setback of the rowhouse lot, Anthony created a simplified Gothic façade that alluded to more ornate precedents. The tripartite façade with a wide central bay flanked by two narrower bays gave the appearance of a flat-roofed central chapel surrounded by pointed towers. Large, second-story lancet windows with six-lobed foils surrounded by a simple archivolt and divided by projecting pseudo-buttresses drew the eye to simplified steeple along the roofline. In addition to drawing from an architectural vocabulary associated with churches, Anthony took inspiration from the commercial buildings that surrounded the Bible society building. The central, double-height bronze block of windows functioned like a shop window, allowing the Society to display Bibles for sale. Flanked by human-scale double doors, it created an inviting entrance. Instead of adding more Gothic detailing and creating a dynamic, three-dimensional façade, Anthony stripped it back to create a modern, streamlined look. The flatness of the façade, as compared to neighboring buildings, is remarkable in historic images.

The Bible society was pleased with the design, and excited to begin working from their new building. At the dedication, William McCarroll, a representative of other Bible societies, stated that "The stately walls, with the symmetrical arches encasing the windows bespeak the illuminated outlook, suggest the upright man and his views of life's opportunities, while the pinnacle rising as in aspiration to the surmounting crown, not without its cross, betokens the inspiration of service in this man's character, and of the work of the New York Bible Society."<sup>13</sup> The local architectural and business community was also pleased with the new building. The Fifth Avenue Association awarded the New York Bible Society the silver medal as the second best new building in 1921. The editor of *Architecture* magazine, whose offices were on Fifth Avenue, argued that it should have been should have been given first prize.<sup>14</sup>

The completed New York Bible Society building housed its bookstore, printing house, and missions as well as the Female Auxiliary Bible Society. The 250-seat auditorium space, reading room, prayer rooms, and sales desk provided the organization with room to host events, provide outreach, and continue to grow. In 1924, the Society published its first bilingual (English/German) Bible. In the years after World War I, many German immigrants were pushed to Americanize. Through new bilingual translations, the Society could further

<sup>13</sup> David Jones Fant, *The Bible in New York: The Romance of Scripture Distribution in a world metropolis from 1809-1948* (New York: The Society, 1948): 31.

<sup>14</sup> "Encouraging Good Taste in Architecture," *Architecture* 44 (1921): 369; "Fifth Avenue Association Awards Medals for Best New and Altered Buildings in Fifth Avenue Zone: First Prize Goes to Textile Building, Occupying Fifth Avenue Block Front – Second to New Home of New York Bible Society," *New York Times* November 20, 1921; "Bible Society in New Home," *New York Times* April 10, 1921; "Bible Society's New Home," *New York Times* April 22, 1921; *American Architect & The Architectural Review* 121 (1922): 122-123; *Architectural Record* 50 (1921): 468-470.

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encourage education and assimilation. The society continued to serve the needs of servicemen and women; despite paper shortages, it managed to fill every request it received for Bibles during World War II.<sup>15</sup>

After nearly 150 years of providing translations and copies of the Bible, the New York Bible Society became heavily involved in the development of a new, nondenominational English translation of the Bible. In 1968, three years after a group of scholars decided to begin creating modern translations from the original texts, the New York Bible Society became the primary financial sponsor for New International Version (NIV) Bible. The society's involvement with this innovative and rigorous translation raised their profile nationally and internationally. As the organization reorganized and restructured its missions to reflect its larger scope, it changed its name twice during the 1970s to New York Bible Society International (1971) and then New York International Bible Society (1974).<sup>16</sup>

By 1978, when the full NIV Bible was completed, the Bible Society had outgrown its headquarters once again. That year, it sold its building at 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street to the Swedish Seaman's Church and moved to a new building on Broadway and West 61st Street. The Swedish Seaman's Church, a religious and community organization, continues to operate from the building and remains a good steward.<sup>17</sup>

The New York Bible Society building's streamlined Gothic design reflects both the traditional and forward-thinking nature and missions that the society promoted. Commissioned and constructed during the 1920s, the building is representative of the substantial growth and increasing influence of the society during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Anthony's successful melding of modern and traditional architectural styles remains striking, and this building is a relatively rare and intact example of this type. Though the ownership has changed, the building retains a high level of integrity of design and use.

<sup>15</sup> Biblica, "Timeline," available at < <http://www.biblica.com/images/pdfs/IBStimeline.pdf> >.

<sup>16</sup> New International Version, "History," available at < <http://www.thenivbible.com/translation/history/>>.

<sup>17</sup> Svenska Kyrkan, "Svenska Kyrkan," available at <<http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/default.aspx?id=546526>>.

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Bible Society of New York

Name of Property

New York County, New York

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**Bible Society of New York**

**Name of Property**

**New York County, New York**

**County and State**

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**Bible Society of New York**

**Name of Property**

**New York County, New York**

**County and State**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for this nomination is shown as a heavy black line on the accompanying map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary incorporates the entire lot on which the New York Bible Society, now the Swedish Seaman's Church, has historically been located.

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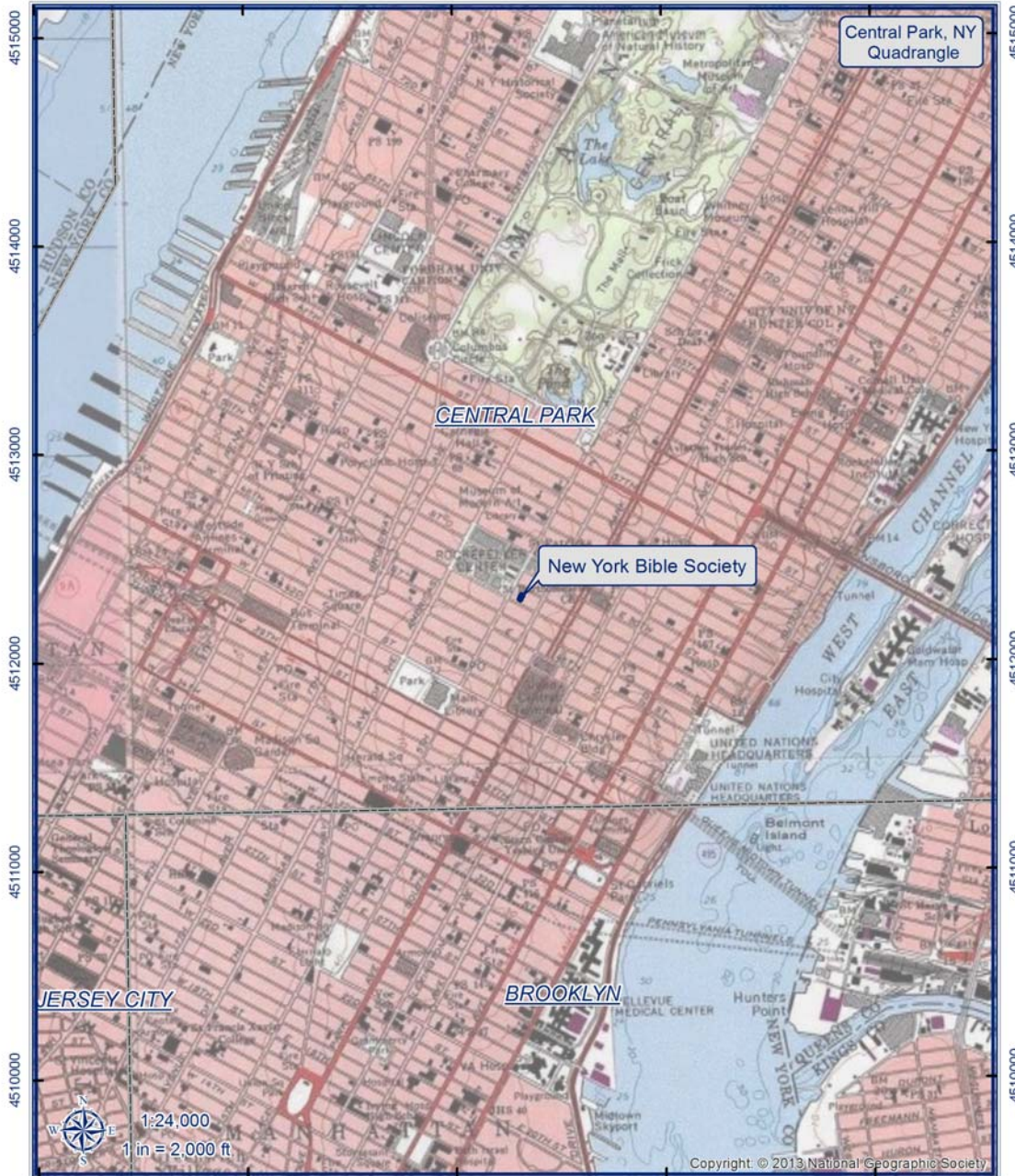
New York County, New York

County and State

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New York Bible Society  
Manhattan, New York Co., NY

5 East 48th Street  
New York, NY 10017



584000 585000 586000 587000 588000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Units: Meter

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

NY Bible Society  
 USGS quad index

Tax Parcel Data:  
 NYC PLUTO  
<http://www.nyc.gov/>





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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bible Society of New York

Name of Property

New York County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 3

New York Bible Society  
Manhattan, New York Co., NY

5 East 48th Street  
New York, NY 10017



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



 NY Bible Society

Tax Parcel Data:  
NYC PLUTO  
<http://www.nyc.gov/>





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bible Society of New York

Name of Property

New York County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Additional Information

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: New York Bible Society

City or Vicinity: Manhattan (New York City)

County: New York State: NY

Photographer: Emily Sinitski

Date Photographed: February 21, 2013

Number of Photos: 15

Location of Original Digital Files: 309 West 111<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10026

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0001

South façade, camera facing north

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0002

South façade, camera facing northeast

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0003

South façade detail, camera facing north

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0004

South façade, doorway arch detail, camera facing north

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0005

South façade, bronze bay window detail, camera facing north

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0006

Western interior wall, Dedication plaque, camera facing west

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0007

Eastern interior wall, Reading room, camera facing northeast

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0008

Eastern interior wall, Reading room, camera facing southeast

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0009

North Window, Second floor of reading room, camera facing north

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 2

**Bible Society of New York**  
**Name of Property**  
**New York County, New York**  
**County and State**

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NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0010  
Western loft, Reading room, camera facing northwest

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0011  
Balustrade detail, Loft area wrought iron detail, camera facing east

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0012  
South wall, Second floor assembly space, camera facing south

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_0013  
South and east walls, Second floor assembly space, camera facing southeast

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_00014  
East wall and ceiling, bracket detail, camera facing south

NY\_NewYorkCounty\_NewYorkBibleSociety\_00015  
South wall, second floor arch and foil detail, camera facing south

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 3

Bible Society of New York  
Name of Property  
New York County, New York  
County and State



Wurts Brothers. 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Bible Society Building. Museum of the City of New York, 1925  
(X2010. 7. 1. 12230)



3  
CARTER STREET

CHURCH  
OF  
SWEDEN  
5

SVENSKA  
KYRKAN  
5

SUSHI BAR





ALAN  
FLUSER  
CUSTOM

EAMONN'S BAR & GRILL  
PRIVATE ROOM AVAILABLE  
fits up to 100 people  
parties and events  
no 7th Avenue  
reservations

RAN'S  
SPIRITS

3  
EAST 40 STREET

NO STANDING  
ANY TIME  
3  
5 MINUTE  
6

SECRETLY  
SHINING  
BASH

NO STOPPING





Thy Word



is Truth

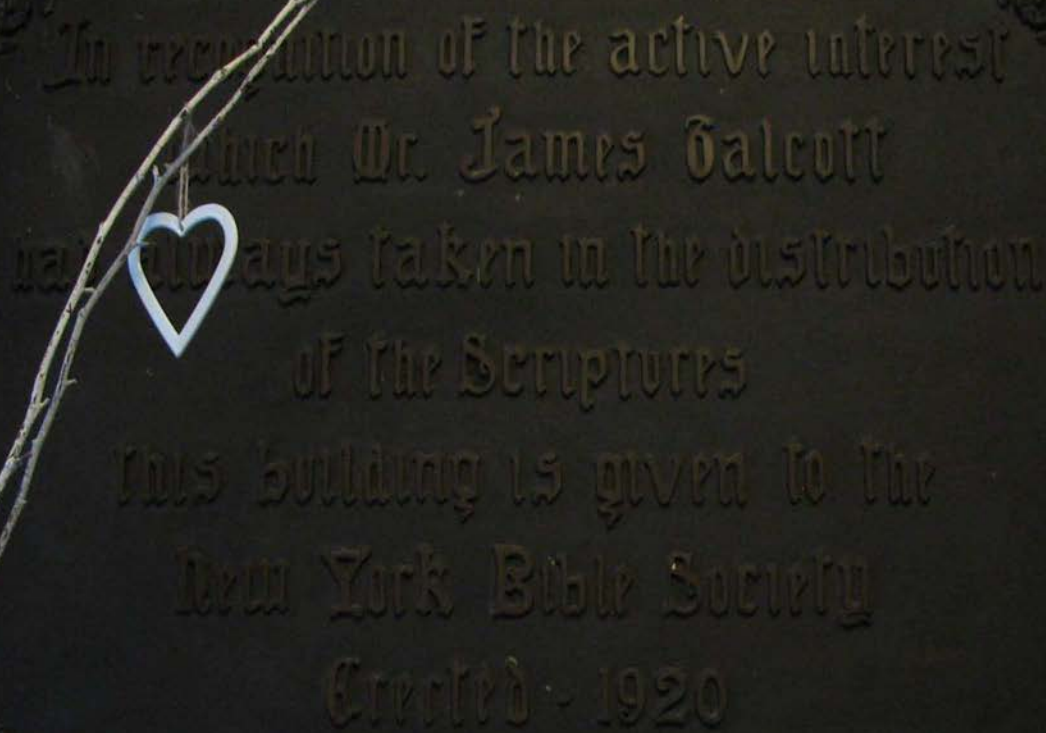


NEW YORK

CHURCH OF SWEDEN

CALCOTT BUILDING





In recognition of the active interest  
which Mr. James Galcott  
has always taken in the distribution  
of the Scriptures  
this building is given to the  
New York Bible Society  
Created - 1920



Small white rectangular label on the wall above the bookshelves.

Small white rectangular label on the wall above the bookshelves.

Small white rectangular label on the wall to the right of the bookshelves.



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY New York Bible Society  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001152

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      2-5-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FIELD SERVICES BUREAU • DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, The Swedish Seamen's Church, Inc. am the owner of the property at  
(print or type owner name)

5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan, NYC, NY  
(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

[Handwritten Signature]

21<sup>st</sup> February 2013

(signature and date)

Mailing Address:

The Swedish Seamen's Church

5 E 48<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10017

Revised 5/08





**Landmarks Preservation  
Commission**

Robert B. Tierney  
Chair

October 23, 2012

Kate Daly  
Executive Director  
kdaly@lpc.nyc.gov

Ms. Ruth Pierpont, Deputy Commissioner  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189  
Peebles Island  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

1 Centre Street  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

212 669 7926 tel  
212 669 7797 fax

Re: New York Bible Society, Manhattan, New York

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

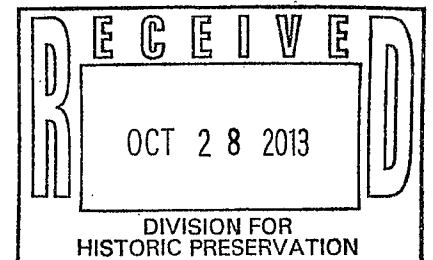
I write on behalf of Chair Robert B. Tierney in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the New York Bible Society, located at 5 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan, for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission's Director of Research Mary Beth Betts has reviewed the materials submitted by the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau and has determined that the New York Bible Society appears to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kate Daly

cc: Robert B. Tierney, Chair  
Mary Beth Betts, Director of Research







## New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
518-237-8643



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

13 December 2013

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose six National Register nominations, all on discs, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Rockaway Courthouse, Queens County  
New York Bible Society, New York County  
North Presbyterian Church, New York County  
Temple of Israel Synagogue, Queens County  
St. Anselm's Roman Catholic Church and School, Bronx County  
Bellevue Country Club, Syracuse, Onondaga County

Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office