



309

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14

other names/site number Fire Engine Company No. 36

2. Location

street & number 120 East 125th Street [] not for publication

city or town New York [] vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10035

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. Purpoint DBAHO
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/29/13
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
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

[] removed from the National Register

[] other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

Edson H. Beall 5.22.13

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

New York, New York

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian / Romanesque Revival

Foundation

Walls Brick, Brownstone

Roof Multi-colored slate tiles

Other Cast- iron, Wood, Wrought-iron

Narrative Description

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

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

New York, New York

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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1888/1889

Significant Dates:

1888/1889

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Napoleon LeBrun & Sons

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14
Name of Property

New York, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u>	3	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>			4	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>		

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Meisha Hunter, Senior Preservationist

organization Li/Saltzman Architects PC date December 28 2012

street & number 62 White Street, 4th floor telephone 212.941.1838

city or town New York state NY zip code 10013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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 New York City Department of Housing and Preservation Development

street & number 100 Gold Street, 7-01 telephone _____

city or town New York state New York zip code 10038

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14
Name of Property
New York, New York
County and State

Narrative Description of Property

(The following descriptive narrative has been taken largely from the New York City Landmarks Designation Report for the Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 by Laura Hansen, Landmarks Consultant. NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. June 17, 1997. Designation List 282 LP-1838)

Overview: Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14, 120 East 125th Street in New York, is located mid-block between Park and Lexington Avenues in the Harlem neighborhood of Upper Manhattan. 125th Street is primarily a commercial corridor composed of late 19th century, early 20th century and contemporary retail and office buildings. The firehouse was built in 1888-89 and served as an active firehouse for 86 years (until 1975). The building is currently vacant.

Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, the firehouse is characterized by the gable front and mansard roof, rusticated brownstone masonry, and ornamental details in brownstone and cast iron. The firehouse consists of a 25 foot wide¹, 4-story brick and stone structure situated on a 100'-11" deep lot. A small one-story extension is located at the rear of the building. The base, which is dominated by the vehicular entrance, features rusticated brownstone, with tripartite cast-iron framing, and wood and glass infill. The second and third stories feature brick masonry laid in a running bond with brownstone quoining, large tripartite windows in the central bay, and single, smaller windows in the east-most bay. The fourth story features a gable front and ovolo molding above a large, multi-light, round headed window. The mansard roof is visible on either side of the gable.

The Firehouse: The site of Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 was previously occupied by two earlier fire companies. The volunteer Mechanics No. 7 company occupied the site of 120 East 125th Street for at least three years (1865-1868). Suburban Ladder No. 14 occupied the site for thirteen years (1865-1888). Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 was constructed in 1888-1889 and was active in its purpose built use until 1975.

Principal Façade

Base: "The first story is dominated by the vehicular entrance, which is framed in cast iron and set in the center of a rusticated brownstone surround. Modest fish-scale and flame-shaped motifs ornament the cast-iron piers, transom bars and lintel. The vehicular entrance is a non-historic, wood-paneled, overhead roll-down door painted red. The pedestrian entrance, consisting of a red-painted, non-historic wood door and glazed panel, with glazed transom above, is placed within the cast-iron frame on the west side of the building. The house watch window with historic wood sash, with a decorative panel below, is symmetrically placed on the east side of the frame. Glazed, single-light transoms are located above the house watch window bay, vehicular entrance bay, and pedestrian entrance bay. "Engine 36" was painted on the top panel of the cast-iron frame."

- **Features Illustrated in c. 1939 Tax Photograph that were removed prior to 1997:** A pair of paneled, wood and multi-light glass doors were located at the vehicular entry. A taller paneled wood door and

¹ Stern, Robert A. M. *New York 1880: Architecture and Urbanism in the Gilded Age*. New York: The Monacelli Press, 1999, 820.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

New York, New York

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

shorter glazed transom above, were located at the pedestrian entry bay. "Hook & Ladder 14" was painted at the top panel of the cast iron frame.

- **2012 Update:** The painted lettering "Engine 36" is no longer visible at the top panel of the cast iron frame; "E. 14 Tower Ladder 1" has been hand-written in white-colored paint at this location. Two glazed panels have been inserted into the non-historic, wood paneled, overhead roll-down garage door. The glazed, single-light transom located above the pedestrian entrance bay has been sealed with a red-painted, non-historic wood panel. The pedestrian entry door is shorter, and the transom above the door is more elongated, than in the historic c. 1939 condition. Cast iron elements are painted red, with details painted in black and gold. Wood elements are painted red.

Second and Third stories: "A brownstone molding separates the base from the upper stories. The second and third floors are faced in brick. Between the second and third stories is the identifying inscription listing the presiding Fire Department Officers and names N. Le Brun & Sons as the building's architects. The inscription text reads: "Erected A. D. 1888 Commissioners, Henry D. Purroy, Pres., Richard Croker, Fitz John Porter. N. Le Brun & Sons, Arch^{ts}". Curved brownstone edges frame the building above the base, providing the effects of quoins and terminating in carved, knobbed finials at the fourth story gable. At the second and third stories are tripartite one-over-one double hung wood windows with single, glazed transoms above. Two small masonry openings, featuring one-over-one double hung aluminum windows, have been added to the east side of the second and third stories. All the windows have historic wood sash."

- **Features added between 1888-89 and 1939:** Two small masonry openings were created at the east side of the second and third stories to provide light and air for bathrooms.
- **Features Illustrated in c. 1939 Tax Photograph that were removed prior to 1997:** A flagpole was mounted at the sill of the 2nd story, center bay window.
- **2012 Update:** A metal flagpole is mounted at the brick masonry, to the west of the west-most 2nd story window. Two, non-historic, metal, down-light fixtures, as well as two non-historic, metal, up-light fixtures, all with exposed conduit, are mounted in the brick masonry above the brownstone molding separating the base from the 2nd story. At the second and third floors, the historic wood windows have been replaced with aluminum windows.

Fourth story: "The gable is the most detailed element of the composition, featuring a decorative brownstone gableboard, and a heavily-carved ovolo molding which forms the window's arch. The window has historic multi-pane wood sash. The gable itself is a stepped pattern, trimmed in brownstone and capped with a finial, set into mansard roof with multi-colored slate tiles. The wrought-iron jib used for hauling hay to the attic storage room remains in place above the gable window."

- **Features Illustrated in c. 1939 Tax Photograph that were removed prior to 1997:** None noted.
- **2012 Update:** Asphalt roofing is visible at the mansard roof. It is unknown whether the multi-colored slate tiles exist beneath the asphalt roofing. The round-headed, multi-light wood window at the fourth story has been replaced with an aluminum window.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14
Name of Property
New York, New York
County and State

Secondary Facades

Lot Line Elevations: The north-most, exposed portions of the East and West facing lot line elevations are visible from East 125th Street. These elevations feature brownstone quoining (from the principal façade) and stuccoed masonry. **Rear Elevation:** The three-story rear elevation features painted brick masonry with single, one-over-one aluminum windows. A one-story addition extends into the rear yard. The courtyard is paved in concrete. The rear, south-facing elevation of the mansard roof is visible from the main roof of the building and features two pedimented window openings with aluminum windows and a central, pedimented opening with a non-historic wood door accessing the main roof.

Interiors: “Several integral features are intact, such as the circular iron staircase, the brass sliding poles, the interior hose drying tower and the pressed-tin ceiling.”^[1] (Note: The interior was not included in the 1997 LPC designation.)

2012 Update: The ground floor housed horse-drawn apparatus as well as stables for the horses, and later accommodated storage for fire steamers and trucks. The ground floor remains open in plan and facilitates ingress/egress of large vehicles. The second and third floors of Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 the dormitory, kitchen, and captain’s office. The fourth story originally served as the hayloft. Several integral historic interior features currently remain, including the circular iron staircase, the holes in the floors to accommodate the sliding poles which firemen used to descend to the fire trucks, and the pressed-tin ceiling. Other interior features, including the historic brass sliding poles (which still existed in 1997) have been removed. The building has not been subdivided.

Integrity: Despite alterations to the firehouse which have occurred over time, Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The building exhibits authenticity of its historic identity, as evidenced by the survival of character-defining, physical characteristics.

- **Location:** Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 remains on the site of its original construction, on the south side of 125th Street, mid-block between Lexington and Park Avenues. The site of Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 was previously occupied by two earlier fire companies. The volunteer Mechanics No. 7 company occupied the site of 120 East 125th Street for at least three years (1865-1868). Suburban Ladder No. 14 occupied the site for thirteen years (1865-1888). Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 was constructed in 1888-1889 and was active in its purpose built use until 1975.
- **Design:** Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14, built in 1888-89, and designed by the architectural firm of N. LeBrun & Sons in the Romanesque Revival style, retains a combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of the building. Between the years of 1880 and 1895, N. LeBrun & Sons helped to define the New York City Fire Department’s expression of civic architecture, both functionally and symbolically, in 42 structures.
- **Setting:** Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 is characteristic of N. LeBrun & Sons’ numerous mid-block firehouses, reflecting the firm’s attention to materials, stylistic detail, plan, and setting. The firehouse, which maintains the streetwall, relates to the commercial corridor of East 125th Street in East Harlem.

^[1] Hansen, Laura. *Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14*. Landmarks Preservation Commission, June 17, 1997, Designation List 292, LP-1838, 4-5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

New York, New York

County and State

Section 7 Page 4

According to architect and historian Robert A. M. Stern, Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 “exerted a strong civic presence on the street.”²

- *Materials:* Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 retains many of the key exterior materials, including the brick and brownstone façade, as well as cast iron framing at the building’s base, which date from the period of its original construction.
- *Workmanship:* Numerous features on the primary facade, including hand-carved brownstone ornament and fish-scale and flame shaped motifs at the cast-iron base, evidence artisans' labor and skill in constructing the building.
- *Feeling:* The retention of many character-defining physical features, when considered cumulatively, convey the firehouse's historic character. Although Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 no longer retains its purpose built-use, the building continues to convey its historic identity and feeling as a late 19th century firehouse.

² Stern, Robert A. M. et al. *New York 1880: Architecture and Urbanism in the Gilded Age*. New York: The Monacelli Press, 1999, 820.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

New York, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

(The following significance narrative has been taken largely from the New York City Landmarks Designation Report for the Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 by Laura Hansen, Landmarks Consultant. NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. June 17, 1997. Designation List 282 LP-1838)

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 building is significant under National Register Criterion C, since it “embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.” The Romanesque Revival style firehouse, designed by the architectural firm of Napoleon LeBrun & Sons and constructed in 1888-89, operated in its purpose built use until 1975. Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14’s firehouse, built on the site of two former firehouses, was constructed to serve the needs of Upper Manhattan’s Harlem neighborhood which continued to expand northward in the late 19th century. The firehouse is one of 42 structures designed by LeBrun & Sons for the New York City Fire Department between 1880 and 1895 when the firm defined the Department’s functional and symbolic expression of civic architecture. Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 is representative of the firm’s approach to firehouse design during a highly politicized period for the Fire Department and a time of intense urbanization for the city at large. Consistent with other LeBrun era mid-block firehouse designs, Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 relates to the commercial character of East 125th Street, and adheres to the existing street wall. Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 is distinguished as both a civic and a utilitarian structure and reflects LeBrun & Son’s attention to materials, stylistic details, plan and setting. The building’s period of significance commences with the firehouse’s construction (1888-1889) and extends to when Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14 vacated the premises (1975).

Background Information: Firehouse Function and Planning: “With the creation of the Metropolitan Fire Department in 1865 – and the supposed removal of Tammany control of the companies – the Common Council hoped to filter out remaining Tammany influence by banning any firehouse construction for five years. The ban, for reasons unknown, lasted until 1879, when, under Fire Chief Eli Bates, the department embarked on a major campaign for new firehouse construction throughout the city, but especially in northern sections. N. LeBrun & Sons designed all of the Fire Department’s forty-two structures built between 1880 and 1885. It is not clear exactly why the LeBrun firm was commissioned by the Fire Department to serve as its sole architect during these years. Napoleon LeBrun had a personal interest promoting the use of professional architects rather than contractors for municipal building projects. In 1879, LeBrun was the representative of the American Institute of Architects on the Board of Examiners of the Building Bureau of the Fire Department, a position he held for eighteen years. This position may well have led to the commission by the Fire Department, which ultimately did set a standard for firehouse design in New York. With the professionalization of the firefighting force in 1885, the spatial requirements of the firehouse were established. The ground floor functioned primarily as storage for the apparatus, and the second and third floors housed the dormitory, kitchen, and captain’s office. While the basic function of the firehouse had not changed by 1880 (and is essentially the same today), LeBrun is credited with standardizing the main program components, while introducing some minor, but important, innovations in the plan. For example, when horses were first introduced into the system, they were stabled outside behind the firehouse. Valuable time was lost in bringing them inside the apparatus. LeBrun’s firehouses included horse stalls inside the building, at the rear of the apparatus floor, and some houses had special features related to the horses’ care and feeding. The LeBrun firehouses also neatly accommodated the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

New York, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

necessity of drying the cotton hoses after each use incorporating an interior hose-drying “tower” which ran the height of the building along one wall, thus economizing valuable space in the firehouse.”

N. LeBrun & Sons, Architects: “Napoleon Eugene Charles LeBrun (1821-1901) was born to French immigrant parents in Philadelphia. At fifteen years of age he was placed in the office of classicist Thomas Ustick Walter (1804-1887), where he remained for six years. LeBrun began his own practice in 1841 in Philadelphia where he had several major commissions – including the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul (1846-64) and the Academy of Music (1852-57) – before moving to New York in 1864. His Second Empire Masonic Temple competition submission of 1870 did much to establish his reputation in New York. In the same year his son Pierre joined him and the firm became Napoleon LeBrun & Son in 1880. In 1892 the firm became Napoleon LeBrun & Sons in recognition of his youngest son, Michel. All three were active members of the American Institute of Architects.”

“Napoleon LeBrun was first commissioned by the Fire Department of the City of New York in 1880. Until 1895, N. LeBrun & Sons designed 42 buildings for the Fire Department throughout Manhattan, including many firehouses, a warehouse, and a fire pier. The firm’s fifteen-year building campaign resulted in an average of two to three firehouses each year. In some cases, nearly identical buildings were erected; Hook & Ladder No. 14 has a twin in Engine Company No. 56 at 120 West 83rd Street (1888-89, located in the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District). Most of the designs used classical detailing and overall symmetry (in part dictated by the large vehicular entrance on a narrow lot), but provided a wide range of aesthetic expression. The firm created two large, elaborate buildings for the Fire Department during this period: the Fire Department Headquarters at 157-159 East 67th Street (now Engine Company No. 39/Ladder Company No. 16, 1884-86) and Engine Company No. 31, 87 Lafayette Street (1895, a designated New York City Landmark). The Headquarters building is a strong expression of the Romanesque Revival style, and in the years following its completion, several smaller houses were designed in a subdued version of the style.”³

“Engine Company No. 31, the firm’s best known firehouse design, is the least representative of its tenure with the Fire Department and marks a transition between the restrained, classical elegance of the majority of its firehouses and the increasingly monumental designs of other architects which followed at the turn of the century. Engine Company No. 31 is a freestanding structure for a triple engine company modeled on sixteenth-century Loire Valley chateaux. It was a distinct departure from the firm’s usual “storefront” design and is considered the firm’s most impressive civic design. Also of note was the firm’s acclaimed Hook & Ladder Company No. 15 at Old Slip (1885, demolished), which was designed in the style reminiscent of a seventeenth-century Dutch house.”

“While they are best known in New York City for the firehouses, the LeBrunns designed several churches including the Church of the Epiphany (1870, demolished), Saint John-the-Baptist (1872), 211 West 30th Street, and St. Mary-the-Virgin (1894-95, a designated New York City Landmark), 133-145 West 46th Street. At the

³ Following the completion of the Fire Department’s Headquarters building (1884-1886), Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 exemplifies one of LeBrun & Sons’ subdued Romanesque Revival style firehouses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

New York, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

turn of the century, N. LeBrun & Sons achieved renown for office building design in Manhattan, most notably the home office of the Metropolitan Life Building at 1 Madison Avenue (1890-92, and annex tower, 1909, designated New York City Landmark) and the Home Life Insurance Company Building, 256-257 Broadway (1892-94, a designated New York City Landmark).”

Development of East Harlem and 125th Street: “The part of New York known as East Harlem embraces the area of Manhattan north of 96th Street, from Fifth Avenue to the East River to 142nd Street. The original village of Harlem was established in 1658 by Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant and named Nieuw Harlem after the Dutch city of Harlem. The advent of new and better forms of transportation, as well as the rapidly increasing population of New York following the Civil War, brought about the transformation of Harlem into a middle and upper-middle class neighborhood. Although the New York and Harlem Railroad had operated from lower Manhattan to Harlem beginning in 1837, service was unreliable and the trip was long. The impetus for new residential development in this area came with the arrival of three lines of elevated rail service which, by 1881, ran as far north as 129th Street and by 1886 extended farther north.”⁴

Following the erection of elevated service, East Harlem not only witnessed surges in population growth and residential development, but in public facilities construction including police buildings and courthouses, firehouses, libraries and schools. The Gothic Revival and Romanesque style Harlem Police Court and District Court building (1891-93; Thom & Wilson) was constructed at 170 East 121st Street on the southeast corner of Sylvan Terrace. Engine Company No. 35 (1904, Percy Griffin) was constructed on East 114th Street near Madison Avenue.⁵ The Harlem Library (founded 1825) built a library at 2238 Third Avenue, between 121st and 122nd Streets (1873; B. Walther). By 1891, the Harlem Library commissioned a new library (1891; Edgar K Bourne) at 32 West 123rd Street near Lenox Avenue. One year later, a distribution station of the New York Free Circulating Library (1892) was constructed at 218 East 125th Street. The New York Public Library commissioned the Renaissance Revival style 125th Street Branch (1904; McKim, Mead and White) at 224 East 125th Street, between Third and Second Avenues. The New York City Board of Education commissioned one of the city’s largest schools, a Neo-Gothic style, 1,800-student facility, Public School 72 (1879-82; David I. Stagg) on the west side of Lexington Avenue between 105th and 106th Streets.⁶

“Social problems caused a decrease in Harlem’s population during the late 1960s through the 1970s, leaving behind a high concentration of underprivileged residents and decaying housing stock. By the late 1970s and 1980s, years of economic recessions and abandonment, redlining and disinvestment had taken their toll. Since the late 1990s and into the 21st century, Harlem is experiencing a renaissance. Unlike the cultural and literary renaissance of the 1920s, the current rebirth is based on economic development and showcasing Harlem’s cultural history.”⁷

⁴ Noonan, Theresa. *The New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch*. Landmarks Preservation Commission, January 13, 2009, Designation List 409 LP-2305, 2-3.

⁵ See Stern, Robert A. M. *New York 1900: Metropolitan Architecture and Urbanism 1890-1915*. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 1983, 73.

⁶ See Stern, Robert A. M. *New York 1880: Architecture and Urbanism in the Gilded Age*. New York: The Monacelli Press, 1999, 785-820.

⁷ Noonan, Theresa. *The New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch*. Landmarks Preservation Commission, January 13, 2009, Designation List 409

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14
Name of Property
New York, New York
County and State

“125th Street is Harlem’s largest and most famous thoroughfare; some have christened it the Main Street of Black America. Laid out in the 1811 Commissioner's Plan of New York City, 125th Street is one of 15 broad cross-town streets that fall approximately every ten blocks along the tilted north-south axis of Manhattan Island. In the latter part of the 19th century, 125th Street emerged as one of Harlem’s major commercial thoroughfares. By 1914, its large quota of shops, theatres, banks, and markets, rivaled other major cross-town streets. Throughout the years, 125th street has consistently been the center of culture and entertainment for Harlem. The Harlem Opera House at 207 West 125th Street opened its doors on September 30, 1889. The Apollo Theatre, originally Hurtig & Seamons Burlesque Theatre, reopened in January 1934, as the first theatre to offer live entertainment to black audience. 125th Street is home to The Studio Museum of Harlem founded in 1968, supporting the works of black artists and showing artworks inspired by black culture.”⁸

Developmental and Construction History of Hook & Ladder Company No. 14: “

“Because northern Manhattan was sparsely populated in 1865, the Metropolitan Fire Department established suburban companies to serve the area. These companies, both engine and ladder, functioned slightly differently than their counterparts downtown. The suburban firefighters had a lighter work schedule and received less pay, and the companies were assigned hand-drawn apparatus instead of the horse-drawn steamers and trucks assigned to the regular companies. In October 1865, Suburban Ladder No. 14 (1865-1868) was established at 120 East 125th Street, inheriting the property and equipment of the volunteer Mechanics No. 7 (pre-1865). The city grew rapidly northward, and less than three years later on January 1, 1868, the Fire Department closed all suburban companies. Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14 replaced Suburban Ladder No. 14. For twenty years, Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 continued to operate out of the old volunteer firehouse at 120 East 125th Street until 1888, when a new building was constructed in response to Harlem’s growing population. As reported in the Fire Department’s *Annual Report of 1889*, the Department recognized the need to prepare for the encroaching development of the city northward in Manhattan: “There is also imperative need of a number of additional companies north of One Hundred and Tenth Street, where no increase in the fire-extinguishing force has been made since the organization of the Department, to keep pace with the large growth in population and buildings.”

“The new structure for Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14, designed by the architectural firm of N. LeBrun & Sons, was erected in 1888-89. In the first year in its new home, the company was staffed by twelve firemen and three horses for its hook and ladder truck; it responded to 146 alarms and fought 93 fires. The structure was home to Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 until 1975, at which time No. 14 relocated to 2282 Third Avenue, and Engine Company No. 36 relocated here from 1849 Park Avenue.”

- **2012 Update:** The building is currently vacant. It is not known when the Fire Department’s Engine Company No. 36 vacated the premises and the building ceased to function as a firehouse. According to NYC tax and deed records, a sundry agreement was executed between the NYC Landmarks

LP-2305, 2-3.

⁸ Noonan, Theresa. *The New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch*. Landmarks Preservation Commission, January 13, 2009, Designation List 409

LP-2305, 2-3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14
Name of Property
New York, New York
County and State

Preservation Commission and an unnamed party on June 15, 2001. Currently, the building is scheduled to be renovated as the new headquarters for the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (pending NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and NYC Department of Buildings approvals). According to a review of regulatory permits issued by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, only one Notice of Review and two staff level Advisory Reports have been issued. Notice of Review (NOR 97-2903; Docket 97-2583) was issued for structural work, including underpinning and related interior alterations on December 9, 1996 when the building was calendared (but not yet designated as an individual landmark). Staff level Advisory Report (SRA 98-5083; Docket 98-4665) was issued for the installation of a fire suppression system at the first floor kitchen on April 1, 1998. Staff level Advisory Report (SRA 99-0727; Docket 98-5783) was issued for alterations at the first floor interior, including replacement of the apparatus floor, steel members, and floor drains, as well as replacement of the sidewalk, and construction of a temporary steel cage for housing the apparatus during construction on August 3, 1998. According to a review of NYC Department of Buildings' Building Information System records for 120 East 125th Street, alteration permits were filed in 1907, 1923, 1934, and 1957, and plumbing work was permitted in 1923 and 1934.

Conclusion: Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14 is a significant part of the NYC Fire Department's history as a firehouse which served in its purpose built use from 1888/1889 to 1975. Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14 functions as a critical link in the development and evolution of fire company architecture in New York – since the building replaced previously existing volunteer and suburban companies' on the site, and was in operation for 86 years. The Romanesque Revival style firehouse retains a high level of integrity, continues to exert a strong visual presence on East 125th Street, and is one of 42 structures designed by the prolific firm of Napoleon LeBrun & Sons' for the NYC Fire Department.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

No. 14

Fire Hook & Ladder Company

Section 9 Page 1

Name of Property
New York, New York
County and State

Bibliography:

Books

Stern, Robert A. M. *New York 1880: Architecture and Urbanism in the Gilded Age*. New York: The Monacelli Press, 1999.

Designation Reports

Hansen, Laura. *Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14*. Landmarks Preservation Commission, June 17, 1997, Designation List 292, LP-1838.

Noonan, Theresa. *The New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch*. Landmarks Preservation Commission, January 13, 2009, Designation List 409, LP-2305.

Unpublished Records

New York City Department of Buildings Building Information System records: 120 East 125th Street, New York.

New York City Department of Finance, Office of the City Registrar, ACRIS Records: 120 East 125th Street, New York

New York City Fire Department, History and Heritage of Manhattan Companies.

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Research Department file: 120 East 125th Street, New York.

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Preservation Department files:

Notice of Review NOR 97-2903 (LPC Docket 97-2583)

Advisory Report SRA 98-5083 (LPC Docket 98-4665)

Advisory Report SRA SRA 99-0727 (LPC Docket 98-5783)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14
Name of Property
New York County, New York
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The Fire Hook & Ladder Company is located at 120 East 125th Street in New York City's Harlem neighborhood. The building is located mid-block on the south side of the street, facing north.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is defined by the building's historic parcel that is associated with its 1888/1889 construction and period of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

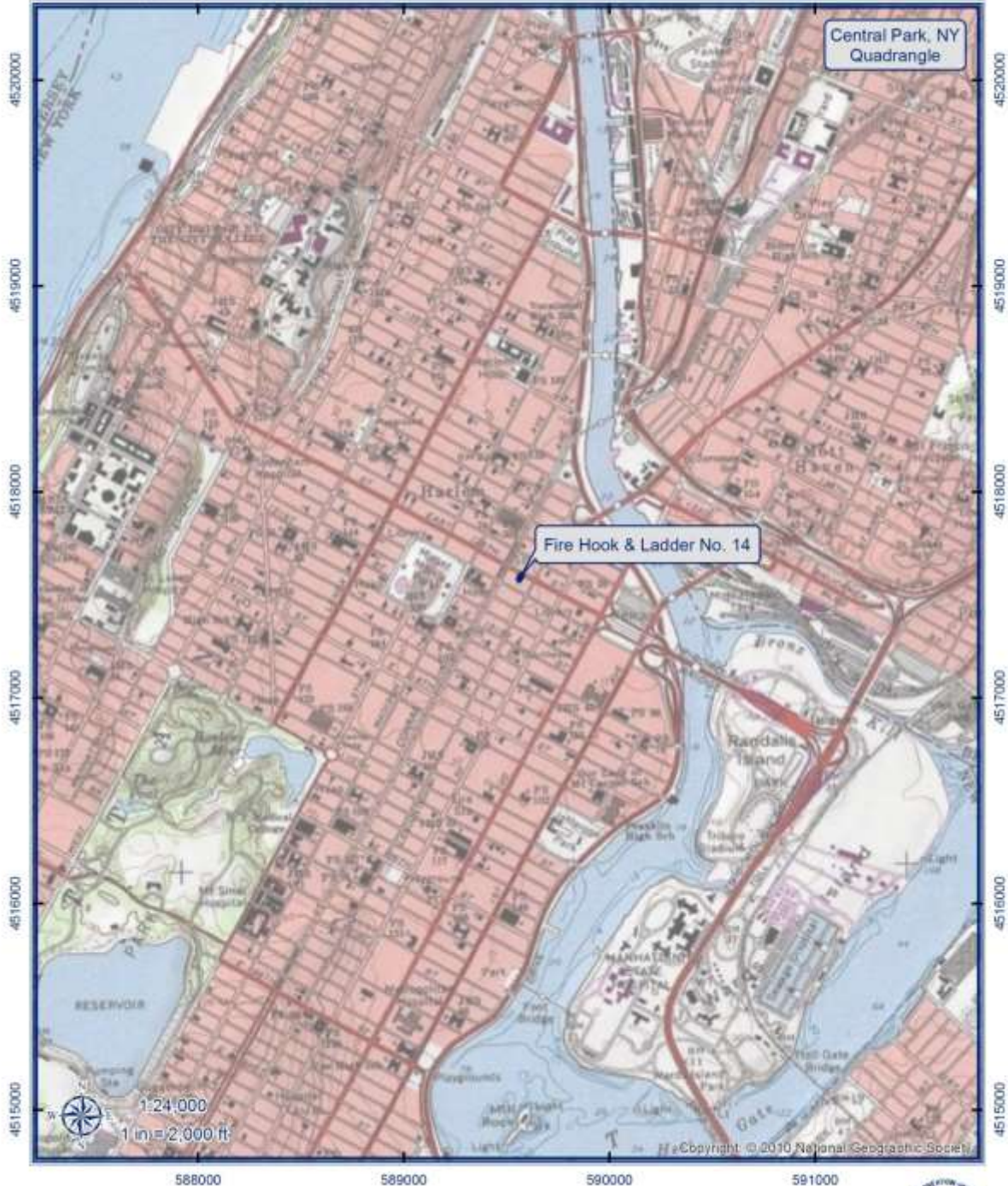
New York County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Fire Hook & Ladder No. 14
Manhattan, New York Co., NY

120 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035



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

0 600 1,200 2,400 Feet

 Fire Hook & Ladder No 14

Tax Parcel Data:
NYC OASIS
<http://www.oasisnyc.net>



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

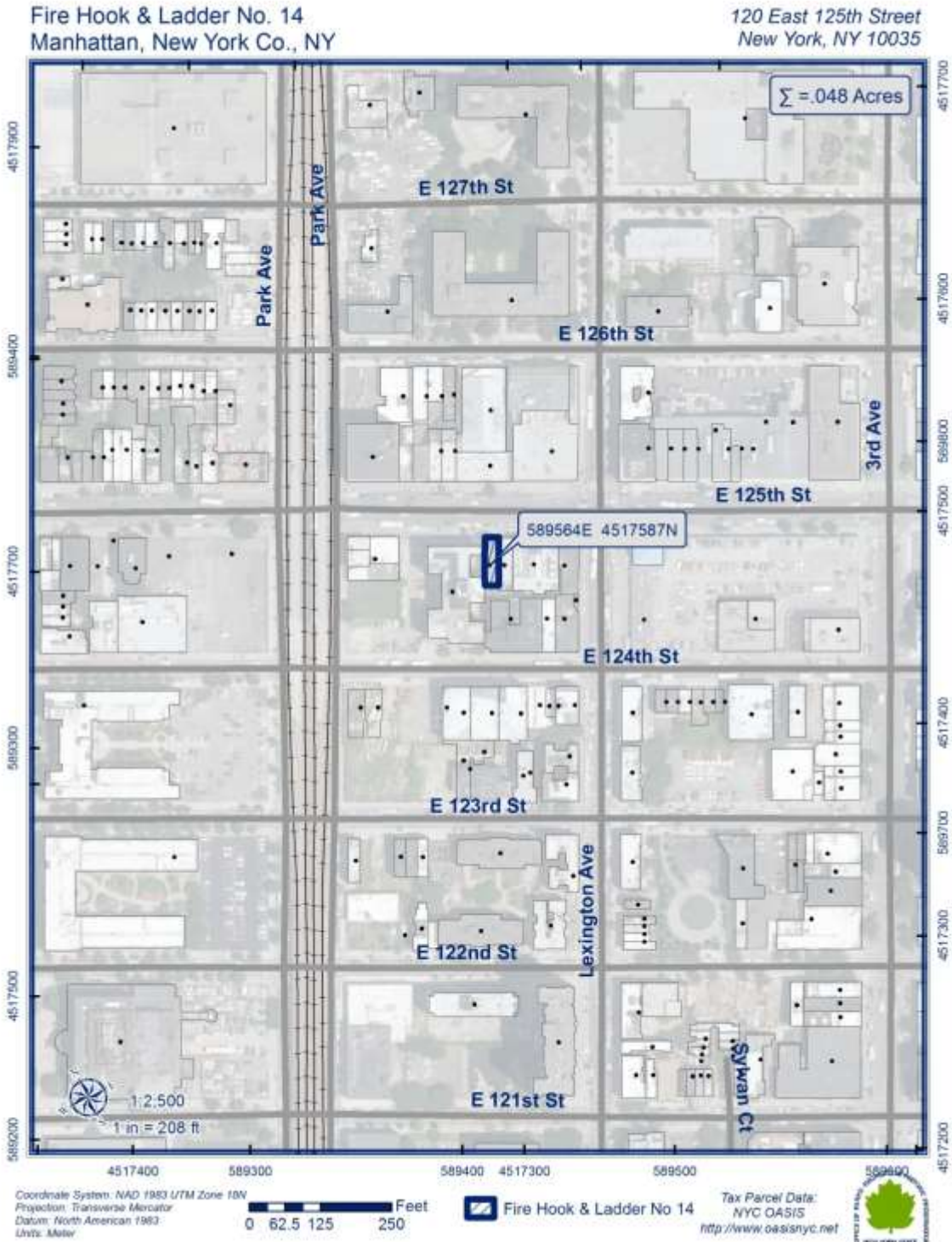
Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14

Name of Property

New York County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 3



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
14

Fire Hook & Ladder Company No.

Section 11 Page 1

Name of Property
New York, New York
County and State

Historic Image - Description & Source

1. Historic Image: 120 East 125th Street, c. 1939. Source: New York City Municipal Archives, Tax Photograph Collection.

2010 Photographs

Photographs taken by Judith Saltzman, Li/Saltzman Architects, PC

1. Existing Conditions: Façade of Fire Hook & Ladder Company No. 14.
2. Existing Conditions: Streetscape view of 120 East 125th Street.
3. Existing Conditions: Detail view of first floor of 120 East 125th Street.
4. Existing Conditions: Detail view of inscription located between the second and third floors of the principal façade of 120 East 125th Street.
5. Existing Conditions: Detail view of second through fourth floors of 120 East 125th Street.
6. Existing Conditions: Detail view of fourth floor of 120 East 125th Street.
7. Existing Conditions: Detail view of interior circular iron staircase.
8. Existing Conditions: Detail view of interior pressed tin ceiling.
9. Existing Conditions: Interior view of first floor looking north



HARLEM
SAVING
BANK

RESTAURANT

HOOK & LADDER 14

1773 - 62 M

B.K.O.
WIN
100
2 FOR 1
4 FOR 1
TUESDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

B.K.O.
WIN
100
2 FOR 1
4 FOR 1
TUESDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

Big
ble
page

SHOES

SHOES





Apple Bank for Savings

Filiberto's

Filiberto's

New York City Bus

M10

14 TOWN HILL



CAUTION

WHEN ALARM BELL SOUNDS
TANK FILLED TO CAPACITY
DO NOT OVERFILL

36

14 TOWN HILL

PLEASE USE



ERECTED A. D. 1888
COMMISSIONERS,
HENRY D. PURROY, PRES I,
RICHARD CROKER,
FITZ JOHN PORTER.
N. LE BRUN & SONS, ARCHTS





ERECTED BY THE
MILWAUKEE
SEWARD TRUST
1878 JOHN RUSTEN
B. L. SMITH ARCHT.

14 TOWER LADDEN









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York

DATE RECEIVED: 4/05/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/26/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/13/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/22/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000309

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 5-22-13 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.

NYC
**Landmarks Preservation
Commission**



Robert B. Tierney
Chair

February 26, 2013

Kate Daly
Executive Director
kdaly@lpc.nyc.gov

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

1 Centre Street
9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

212 669 7926 tel
212 669 7797 fax

Re: Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14, 120 East 125th Street, Manhattan

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I write on behalf of Chair Robert B. Tierney in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14, located at 120 East 125th Street in Manhattan, for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Commission strongly supports the nomination of this firehouse. On June 17, 1997 the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14 as an individual New York City landmark. The firehouse was designed by the architectural firm of Napoleon LeBrun & Sons, and built in 1888-89. The Romanesque Revival style firehouse reflects Napoleon LeBrun & Sons' attention to materials, stylistic detail, plan, and setting.

Therefore, based on the Commission's prior review and designation of this firehouse, the Commission has determined that Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14 appears to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Daly".

Kate Daly

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



MATHEW M. WAMBUA
Commissioner
RUTHANNE VISNAUSKAS
Deputy Commissioner
BEATRIZ DE LA TORRE
Assistant Commissioner

Office of Development
Planning, Marketing
& Sustainability
100 Gold Street
New York, N.Y. 10038



June 28, 2012

Daniel McEneny
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

**Re: Former East 125th Street Firehouse
120 East 125th Street, New York, NY**

Dear Mr. McEneny:

This letter is to confirm that the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development is granting permission for the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute ("CCCADI") to move forward with the process to seek National Registry for the decommissioned firehouse located at 120 East 125th Street. It is expected that the firehouse will be transferred to CCCADI in the fall of 2012, pending the availability of financing for rehabilitation of the building.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call Charles Marcus, Director of Operations, at 212-863-8961. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

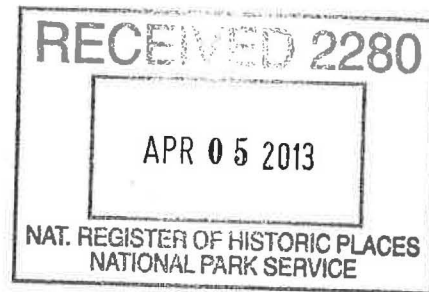
Beatriz De La Torre

cc: Marta Moreno Vega, CCCADI



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

29 March 2013

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following five National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 14, New York County
E.M. Hager & Sons Co. Building, Erie County
Hurricana Stock Farm, Montgomery County
Buffalo Zoo Entrance Court, Erie County
South Wedge Historic District, Monroe County

Please note that we are submitting each nomination on disc. For each nomination, I have enclosed two discs, one containing the nomination and maps and the other containing the digital images. I have also enclosed a cover sheet signed by Ruth Pierpont for each. 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