

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex

other names/site number 40<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct; 30<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct

name of related multiple property listing N/A

### Location

street & number 1850-1854 Amsterdam Avenue

city or town New York

state NY code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10031

☐ not for publication

☐ vicinity

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

R Daniel Mackay  
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/17/2019  
Date

DSYPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

    determined eligible for the National Register

    determined not eligible for the National Register

    removed from the National Register

    other (explain:)

Olivia Mackay  
Signature of the Keeper

8/8/19  
Date of Action

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## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	<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.)

GOVERNMENT / POLICE STATION

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE / Professional

WORK IN PROGRESS

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Second Empire

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

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Commercial Style

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick, Nova Scotia or New Brunswick

Sandstone, Granite

roof: Slate

other: Iron

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The former 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex is located at 1850-1854 Amsterdam Avenue on the southwest corner of West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Lower Washington Heights/Hamilton Heights neighborhood of northern Manhattan, New York City, New York County, New York. The complex is within an architecturally diverse neighborhood consisting of residential row houses and apartment buildings, tenements with ground floor commercial space, institutional buildings, and a factory, as well as open space. Immediately to the south of the complex, on Amsterdam Avenue, are one four-story and four three-story tenements with commercial ground floors. Farther south, across West 151<sup>st</sup> Street, is the former Joseph Loth Silk Ribbon Co. factory. To the north, across West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, on the west side of Amsterdam Avenue, is PS/IS 210 (the Twenty-first Century Academy for Community Leadership), built in 2007, a French Second Empire style house, and the former Washington Heights Methodist Episcopal Church (1869), now St. Luke's A. M. E. Church (St. Luke's is the owner of the station house). Farther north, on the north side of West 152<sup>rd</sup> Street is Trinity Cemetery, a large, raised landscaped plot surrounded by a massive stone wall. On the east side of Amsterdam Avenue, across from the station house complex, is Carmansville Playground, with the Post-Modern headquarters of Dance Theater of Harlem immediately to the east. Three-story tenements and a two-story brick and concrete medical building occupy the east side of Amsterdam Avenue to the north, and a five-story tenement and modern, seven-story apartment building are located to the south. To the west of the station house, on West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, the south side of the street is lined with five-story apartment buildings, while the north side contains a mix of three-story and raised basement row houses and five-story apartment buildings.

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### Narrative Description

The complex consists of the main police precinct station house on the southwest corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street with an attached prison wing to the west, and a police garage adjoining to the south. The complex originally occupied a single lot, but this has now been divided into two lots – the station house with former prison at the rear, located at 1852-54 Amsterdam Avenue, form one lot, and the garage, at 1850 Amsterdam Avenue, the other. The complex is located in a neighborhood with a diversity of buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional structures and a park. The complex occupies most of its lot area, with the exception of an air shaft on the south side of the precinct station house. The station house is set back from the sidewalk behind an areaway with a wrought-iron fence. The prison and garage buildings extend to the lot line. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Police Station House complex retains its integrity to a very high degree. The nominated lot is the parcel historically associated with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House complex.

#### 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House, 1871-72 (1 contributing building)

The former 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House is a four-story and basement, symmetrically massed, five-bay by five-bay brick building with granite trim at the basement level and sandstone trim above, on its two prominent street facades. On Amsterdam Avenue, the façade is five bays wide, with the three central bays projecting slightly to create a frontispiece. The corners of the building and the ends of the projecting frontispiece are marked by sandstone quoins that alternate between large and small blocks. The smaller blocks have a smooth finish, while the large blocks have a pecked finish framed by a smooth margin. The

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stone employed for these quoins and for other ornament on the first through third floors is a light-colored freestone, probably from Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, Canada, that is generally in excellent condition.

The building has a deep basement set behind an areaway with a historic but not original wrought-iron fence, probably added in the late nineteenth century. The basement is lit by four rectangular windows with flush granite lintels and original cast-iron window guards. The basement is faced with red brick and trimmed with granite. At the corners of the building and at the ends of the projecting frontispiece are granite blocks laid in a rusticated manner. The top blocks, forming a transition between the rustication below and the quoins above, have projecting pyramidal bosses. At the same level as these bosses, a granite beltcourse separates the basement and first story.

The first, second, and third stories are clad in red brick with sandstone lintels, sills, and quoins. The building is entered up six stone steps (the treads are protected by metal plates) that lead to original wooden, multi-paneled, double doors with a transom above (a sign currently hides the transom window). The wide, centrally placed, rectangular entrance is capped by a segmental-arch pediment resting on brackets with pyramidal bosses. The inner section of the pediment and the area beneath the pediment's horizontal base are ornamented with dentils.

The fenestration of both facades includes five openings on each of the first through third floors plus three dormers on the fourth story. All of the windows on the first through fourth floors have projecting stone sills resting on modest brackets. Those on the first story have segmental-arch pediments; the second floor has triangular pediments; and on the third story has projecting flat-topped lintels. The windows on the Amsterdam Avenue façade, with the exception of those on the third story which are aluminum, have two-over-two wood sash and frames (some of these appear to be original). The windows on the first story have nonhistoric window guards. Above the entrance is a pair of rectangular windows set beneath a segmental-arch lintel with dentils. Another pair of rectangular windows marks the center of the third story; this pair has a projecting flat-topped lintel. On the frontispiece, the central bay is flanked on each story by rectangular windows with projecting flat-topped lintels. The windows on the first story are taller than those above. The end bays on this façade are also articulated with rectangular windows.

The cornice provides the base for an impressively scaled, steeply sloping mansard roof. On each elevation, the central portion of the mansard projects forward and rises above the remainder of the mansard. Each central pavilion supports a projecting wooden dormer with a pair of segmental-arch windows set below a pediment with dentils. At the ends of each façade are single, wooden, segmental-arch dormers with denticulated pediments. The frames of the dormers and the spandrels are ornamented with panels formed by raised moldings. Each side frame is capped by an entablature with a pyramidal boss in the frieze. The mansard is clad in polygonal slate shingles. The mansard is framed in metal, with a cornice with a zigzag-like dogtooth molding. Above the cornice is a highly ornate iron cresting with corner finials (the cresting is missing from the central mansard on 152<sup>nd</sup> Street).

Although longer than the Amsterdam Avenue frontage, the West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street elevation is also five-bays wide and is massed in exactly the same manner, except that the central opening on the first story is a window and not a door. An early engraving of the building seems to show an entrance here, but there is no evidence of infill in the brickwork. One anomaly is that the projecting sill on this central window is granite and not sandstone. At the basement level the easternmost window has been entirely bricked up and the central

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window has been partially filled in. The windows have two-over-two wood sash and frames (those on the first story appear to be replacement sash). Extending along both street facades above the third story is a pressed-metal cornice with incised concave brackets, dentils, pyramidal bosses in the frieze, and complex cap moldings. Above the quoins, the brackets are curved and are set in pairs.

The south elevation is only visible above the second story. It is faced in common brick (painted) and the south wall is unarticulated. In the center is a light and air shaft with one paired, one-over-one wood, rectangular windows on the third and fourth stories of the east and west elevations and a single one-over-one rectangular wood window on the north elevation at the fourth story. The rooftop iron cresting continues along the eastern half of the south elevation. The west elevation is visible above the first story. It is also faced in common brick (painted). It is massed with a single bay with two-over-two rectangular wood windows, followed by a projecting chimney stack, and three additional bays with two-over-two rectangular wood windows. The iron cresting continues above the first bay on this elevation. This façade supports a metal fire escape.

The interior of the station house retains many original features. One enters the building into a small rectangular vestibule which retains its original, multi-paneled double doors, leading into the main hall of the former station house. Original features on the interior include the stair that curves from the first story to the fourth, with its turned wooden balusters and wooden railing, the stair skylight, and the heavy, molded window surrounds on all levels. On the upper floors there are several large spaces that appear to echo the form of the original dormitories.

To the west of the station house is the former prison, now a medical office. The building is two-stories, with a one-story section at the lot line connecting the main mass of the structure with the station house. The prison wing was constructed at the same time as the precinct house and was historically internally connected to it; for the purposes of the National Register program, it is counted with the precinct house as one building. The brick, which has been painted, appears to be continuous between the one- and two-story sections indicating that they were built at the same time. The one-story section has a stoop, running parallel with the street, leading to a noncontributing door. It has a stone coping. A second story with a single rectangular window is setback from this entry pavilion. The main portion of the building is three bays wide. On the first floor, a central vehicular entrance was added at some point after construction but has been bricked in. It is flanked by entrances with noncontributing doors. There are three rectangular windows on the second story, all with splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The central window has two-over-two wood sash and the flanking windows are one-over-one sash with what appear to be original wood frames. At the roofline there are signs of a missing cornice or rebuilt parapet. The east façade of the former prison has a single rectangular window with a flush stone lintel and projecting stone sill.

### **Garage, 1926-7 (1 contributing building)**

To the south of the station house is the garage redesigned from the stables in 1925-26. This is a three-bay wide, symmetrically massed building faced in beige brick laid in common bond. The building is articulated by large rectangular openings. In the center of the ground floor is the vehicular entrance. The remaining five openings are large windows, each with metal window frames with nine panes, replacing the original windows which had smaller panes. The openings have brick soldier course lintels (replaced above the entrance and upper-story openings) and projecting sandstone sills. The building is capped by a brick parapet with a stone coping set on a soldier course of header bricks. In the center is a pedimented parapet, while at each end of the building, the parapet steps up. The two floors and basement are largely open space with concrete-clad

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steel beams. In addition to the steel beams, original features include the exposed brick walls, brick elevator housing, and cast-iron stair. In the stair on the first story and in the basement are openings, now closed up, that connected the station house to the garage.

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## 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 is 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 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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from the construction of the Police Precinct Station House in 1871-72 through 1969 to suggest the Station House's continuing significance. In 1975, the Station House complex was no actively longer used by the NYC Police. This period incorporates the construction of the buildings on the site and their decades of use by NYPD.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

While the former precinct house is currently owned by a religious non-profit organization, this ownership is unrelated to the historic significance of the complex.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Government and Politics

### Period of Significance

1871-1969

### Significant Dates

1871-72, 1925-26

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Nathaniel D. Bush

Thomas E. O'Brien

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The former 32nd Precinct Station House complex (later known as the 40<sup>th</sup> Precinct and the 30<sup>th</sup> Precinct), is significant under Criterion A in the area of Government and Politics for its association with the growth and development of the New York City Police Department as it evolved into a professional city bureaucracy. Built in 1871-72 to a design by the police department's in-house architect, Nathaniel D. Bush, the complex reflects the increasing investment that the city made in erecting handsome, well-planned, and well-equipped police stations that would serve the needs of the precinct's police officers while also providing an impressive civic focus in the neighborhood, representing the power and importance of city government. In addition, the evolution of the complex provides evidence of changes in technology and policing. While the station house remained virtually unaltered, save for improvements to technology and general maintenance, until it was decommissioned in 1975, when a new station house was erected for the precinct, the prison and freestanding horse stable were redesigned and reconfigured by the police department. Notably, the stable was completely redesigned by Thomas E. O'Brien as a garage in 1925-26. The mission of the precinct changed dramatically in the course of the twentieth century, as the neighborhood evolved from a rural district to a heavily urbanized area of row houses and apartment buildings and as the population became more ethnically and racially diverse.

The complex is additionally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its collection of buildings reflecting the changing nature of police station design in New York City from the 1870s to the 1920s. The station house and garage were designed by the architect on the staff of the police department and closely reflect the design priorities of that department at the time they were designed and built. The station house and attached prison is a fine example of post-Civil War civic architecture and an excellent example of a French Second Empire style building. It retains its integrity to an extraordinary high degree on the interior, but especially on the exterior, where even the iron cresting along the impressive mansard roof is intact. The design exemplifies the pride that the city took in building relatively small-scale civic structures in city neighborhoods where they came to symbolize the importance of the city in residents' individual lives. The building also reflects the creation of a professional identity and image for the police force during the period, which had previously repurposed buildings as station houses. The adjoining garage marks a change in civic architecture to a simpler, more utilitarian aesthetic that was part of a larger effort by the police department to erect more economical structures. The building not only indicates a change in aesthetic, but also a change in use, as the stable that previously occupied a portion of the site was no longer efficient for the precinct's needs. The garage which replaced it provided more efficient, purpose-designed space for a police force which increasingly relied on automobiles in police practice.

#### Narrative

In the seventeenth, eighteenth, and part of the nineteenth centuries, policing in New York city consisted of a small night watch.<sup>1</sup> New Yorkers were hesitant to establish a fully staffed, professional police force for fear of creating an armed governmental agency that could usurp democratic governance. On a local scale, this was a reflection of the larger national debate concerning the establishment of a standing army. As late as 1826,

<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed history of the New York City Police Department, see James F. Richardson, *The New York Police: Colonial Times to 1901* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970) and Joseph P. Viteritti, "Police," in Kenneth T. Jackson ed., *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010), 1006-1011.



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there were only two hundred police officers in the city. Despite qualms about a professional police force, rising crime finally resulted in the establishment of such a force in 1845. With the organization of a police department, a precinct established in each city ward, and officers on duty twenty-four hours a day, New York became the first American city with a full-time, professional force. Unfortunately, for the rest of the nineteenth century and into the early decades of the twentieth century, this force was highly politicized since its budget and staff appointments were in the hands of either local or state politicians. Nonetheless, the police did deal with crime and were also in charge of social issues such as assisting drunks and the homeless. Throughout the nineteenth century, the force remained relatively small in comparison to the population of the city. In 1870, for example, the year before the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House complex was built, there were only 2,325 police officers serving a population of 942,292.

A key development in the professionalization of the police department was the decision to construct purpose-built precinct station houses. In the early years of the professional force, most of the station houses were in rented quarters that were highly inadequate. In 1862, the *Annual Report of the Metropolitan Police Board*, a state agency that supervised the department from 1857 to 1870, decried the condition of most station houses, noting that "many were so out of repair as to be unfit habitations; others were so limited in size, that policemen after serving their tours of duty on post were compelled to occupy beds that had just been vacated by their companions."<sup>2</sup> In 1862, conditions began to change when the Metropolitan Police Board appointed Nathaniel D. Bush architect for the department and he was responsible for a significant group of new station houses or for the alteration of older station houses to meet contemporary standards. Money for these new and redesigned station houses was appropriated by the city, notably after 1870 when New York State, which had overseen the police department since 1857, returned the responsibility to New York City. The Tammany Hall political machine that ran the city was notoriously corrupt (as was the department itself) and the construction of a new police precinct station house must have been a source of kickbacks, although no specific records survive concerning the construction of a specific station house.

Very little is known about Nathaniel D. Bush or his training. He was born somewhere in New York State and by 1860 he was living in New York City and reported to the federal census enumerator that he was a carpenter.<sup>3</sup> Bush is listed as an architect in the 1870 census.<sup>4</sup> In the era before the advent of architecture schools and the formal training of architects it is not uncommon to find individuals who are listed in one census or in a city directory as a carpenter, mason, builder, or member of a similar building profession and as an architect in a later census enumeration or directory. Besides serving as the architect for the police department, Bush was also a police officer. Bush was responsible for new police station houses as well as alterations to older buildings from his appointment until he retired in 1895; the *New York Times* noted that he "resigned because age has unfitted him to perform his duties properly."<sup>5</sup> He was not replaced as departmental architect; rather, the department commissioned designs from various architects for new buildings.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson, *The New York Police*, 169.

<sup>3</sup> The United States Census, 1880, ED 226, p. 44 states that both Bush and his parents were born in New York State; U. S. Census, 1860, NY Ward 22, 281.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census, 1870, NY Ward 8, 20.

<sup>5</sup> "Police Architect Bush Resigns," *New York Times*, April 24, 1894, 9.

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Bush designed or altered over two dozen precinct houses in Manhattan and the Bronx during his tenure. A history of the police department, written in 1885, describes the condition of the station houses when Bush arrived at the department and goes on to describe the improvements that he made in station house design:

At the time that Mr. Bush came into the Department as architect, . . . he found the Police Station houses in a crude condition. But little had been done in the line of "modern improvements" and they had been run up, so to speak, to meet pressing emergencies, and without much, if any, regard for the comfort of the men, or the sanitary or architectural advantage of the houses. Mr. Bush went to work at once with characteristic energy, and in a few years our station houses began to be put on very different appearances. The old ones were repaired and remodeled, and new ones designed; and thus the work went on, until to-day these station houses are models for all others over the United States.<sup>6</sup>

The appointment of Nathaniel D. Bush as architect to the police department and his design of impressive city-owned buildings in neighborhoods throughout the city is part of a larger development in the civic realm in New York and other American cities in the mid and late nineteenth century. This was a period when cities were expanding rapidly and when civic bureaucracies were also growing. In New York, it was not only the police department that was becoming professionalized, but firefighting was also transformed from the pursuit of volunteer fire departments to a professional city-run department. Also, the school system expanded dramatically as the city recognized the need to educate all children, especially the children of poor immigrants who could not afford private education. Not only did these jobs become professionalized but the city invested money in erecting new police precinct station houses, fire houses, and schools in both old and new neighborhoods. At each department, an architect was put in charge of the design of the new buildings – Bush at the police department, Napoleon Le Brun (later Napoleon Le Brun & Sons) for the fire department, and George Debevoise, succeeded by C. B. J. Snyder, at the board of education. The buildings designed by these architects were not lavish, but they were often among the largest and most impressive in their neighborhoods. They established a highly visible civic presence in the city's residential neighborhoods at a time when many residents probably never saw city hall or had any dealings with the courts or other government buildings located downtown. These were literally the most important physical manifestations of civic government that most urban residents interacted with and they were designed accordingly.

Upon his appointment, Bush immediately started designing up-to-date precinct houses carefully planned to meet the practical needs of the department and the public. Attention was paid to the fact that police officers were on duty for long periods of time and generally slept at the station house. Thus, they needed adequately ventilated sleeping quarters and modern toilets and other sanitary facilities. Descriptions of typical station houses were provided by James D. McCabe Jr. in his books about New York City published in 1872 and 1881. McCabe notes that the station houses were "model buildings of their kind," generally built of brick with stone trim. The entrance led directly to a public hall, with the sergeants's desk, generally carved from black walnut, to one side (usually to the right). Opposite the sergeants's desk (generally to the left of the hall) was the private office of the precinct's captain, which included a bedroom and private bathroom. Bedrooms for the sergeants (generally two bedrooms) were located to the rear of the desk; they were provided with a bathroom. Stairs leading to the basement and upper floors and a waiting or sitting room for the officers, "in which the men congregate when not on duty," were located behind the captain's quarters. The second and third floors

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<sup>6</sup> A. E. Costello, *Our Police Protectors: History of the New York Police from the Earliest Period to the Present Day* (New York; The Author, 1885), 452-453.

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contained dormitories for the police officers. Bathrooms for the officers were provided either in the basement or on the upper floors. The fourth floor was generally used for storage. To the rear, in a separate structure, sometimes connected to the precinct house via a bridge from the officers' waiting room, was the prison with small cells.<sup>7</sup>

Bush's earliest precinct houses were relatively simple, rectilinear buildings designed in the Italianate style, with a shallow projecting frontispiece capped by a pediment; a three-dimensional, sculptural entrance pediment; sculptural window lintels and sills; and a bracketed cornice. The former 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Station House, at 19-21 Leonard Street, designed in 1868, exemplifies this type of station house. In the late 1860s and early 1870s, Bush designed several station houses in the then-fashionable French Second Empire style. The massing and ornament on the facades of his Second Empire buildings is similar to that on his Italianate station houses, but these new buildings were crowned by impressive mansard roofs, the key identifying feature of Second Empire design. Bush's French Second Empire style station houses include the alteration of an earlier residential building to create the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Station House (1868) at 160 Chambers Street; the 14<sup>th</sup> Precinct Station House (1870-71) at 207 Mulberry Street; and, most prominently, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House is an especially impressive building due to its corner location. Most precinct station houses were erected in built-up parts of the city and were located on less expensive mid-block sites. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct was responsible for a vast territory in northern Manhattan, stretching from 145<sup>th</sup> Street to Dyckman Street, from the Harlem River to the Hudson River.<sup>8</sup> In 1867, when planning for the station house began, this was still a largely rural, sparsely populated area of Manhattan with a mix of old estates, such as the Morris-Jumel Mansion on 160<sup>th</sup> Street (National Register listed); suburban houses, including those of the Audubon Park development, located just to the northwest, near the Hudson River (demolished); vernacular wooden houses (a few survive scattered through the area, notably, nearby, on West 153<sup>rd</sup> Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue); and the large buildings of philanthropic institutions such as the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb (demolished). The first station house in the precinct was erected in 1864. The Landmarks Preservation Commission commented on the building: "A modest three-story brick structure with an adjacent stable, the building was of little architectural interest, although Bush may well have prepared the plans."<sup>9</sup> Both the original and later station houses were erected towards the southern boundary of the precinct. A site on 153<sup>rd</sup> Street was probably chosen because this area of the precinct had a larger number of houses than areas to the north. In addition, the immediate area was home to Trinity Cemetery, owned by one of the city's most prestigious churches (the cemetery runs from West 154<sup>th</sup>-155<sup>th</sup> Streets) and was likely to attract a significant number of visitors.

This area covered by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct generally encompasses what was known as Washington Heights, with sections of northern Harlem; in the nineteenth century, the area immediately around the station house was

<sup>7</sup> James D. McCabe, Jr., *Lights and Shadows of New York Life; Or, the Sights and Sensations of the Great City* (Philadelphia: National Publishing Co., 1872), 179-180; James D. McCabe, *Life in New York: A Work Descriptive of the Great American Metropolis* (Douglass Brothers, 1881), 387-389. The 1881 volume was reprinted as *New York by Sunlight and Gaslight* (Philadelphia: Hubbard Brothers, 1882 and New York: Arlington House, 1984).

<sup>8</sup> In 2019, this area was located in all or part of four separate police precincts.

<sup>9</sup> New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, "Former 30<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Station House (originally 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House) Designation Report," report prepared by Nancy Goeschel (1986), 2.

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often referred to as Carmansville.<sup>10</sup> During the colonial period, the land around where the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House would be built was owned by the Dyckman family. This was one of several large tracts in northern Manhattan owned by this prominent family and used as farms. The Dyckmans sold the farm in 1767 to John Watkins and in 1815 it was divided into three sections by his heirs. The portion of the property on which the station house was erected was inherited by a daughter who had married into the Beekman family, one of the wealthiest families in the city in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The area became known as Carmansville in the 1850s when Richard F. Carman, a wealthy box manufacturer, invested in local real estate, purchasing the Beekman property among others. According to Reginald Pelham Bolton, Carman “built some houses on the newly opened 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, and he and his tenants dubbed the property and the region around it, ‘Carmansville.’”<sup>11</sup> A station on the Hudson River Railroad opened at 152<sup>nd</sup> Street in the 1850s and was given the Carmansville name. The only reminder of the name Carmansville in the neighborhood today is the Carmansville Playground, located on Amsterdam Avenue just across from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Precinct Station House.

Plans for a “new and more commodious building to meet the requirements of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct” began in 1869.<sup>12</sup> At the time of its completion in 1872, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House was among the most prominent and visible buildings in the area. Its rectilinear, yet bold design typifies the work that Bush did for the police department. It is a four-story and raised basement building with the projecting central frontispiece that Bush employed on many of his designs.<sup>13</sup> This projecting central pavilion is evident both on the entrance front facing Amsterdam Avenue and on the side façade facing West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street. Bush designed his buildings in an economical manner, using face brick on the street facades, trimmed with sandstone and, at the basement level, granite. At the fourth-floor level, the building is topped by an enormous, steeply-sloping mansard roof with central sections on each façade projecting out and rising above the remainder of the roof structure. The mansard is also highlighted with pedimented dormers and by a crowning iron cresting.

The interior was laid out in exactly the manner outlined by McCabe in his descriptions of station houses, as is evident from a first-floor plan published by A. E. Costello in his 1885 history of the police department.<sup>14</sup> The station house had a central public space with the sergeant’s desk to the right and the captain’s office and stair to the right, with the sergeants’s rooms and the officers’s waiting room at the rear. Both the plan and engraving published by Costello show a second entrance in the center of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Street façade, but there is no evidence on the building that this entrance existed. Although there is no plan, the upper floors were used as dormitories and storage. Costello was impressed with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House, perhaps over-stating its virtues, but clearly admiring its design and construction:

<sup>10</sup> For Carmansville, see Reginald Pelham Bolton, *Washington Heights Manhattan Its Eventful Past* (New York: Dyckman Institute, 1936), 105-109

Reginald Pelham Bolton, *Washington Heights Manhattan Its Eventful Past* (New York: Dyckman Institute, 1936), 107. Bolton discusses the development of Carmansville on pages 105-109.

<sup>12</sup> Costello, *Our Police Protectors*, 249.

<sup>13</sup> An engraving of the station house published in Costello, *Our Police Protectors*, 389, clearly shows the building with a painted façade, as does a photograph dated 1893, but it is not clear if this was the original condition. The engraving is reprinted in Edmund V. Gillon, Jr., *Early Illustrations and Views of American Architecture* (New York: Dover Publications, 1971), 162. For the photograph, see <https://www.periodpaper.com/collections/new-york-city-at-the-turn-of-the-20th-cenutry-1893-1903-views-of-the-city-buildings-historic-markers/products/1893-print-32nd-precinct-mounted-police-station-nyc-original-historic-image-009767-ny2-292>, accessed January 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Costello, *Our Police Protectors*, 390.

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Built twenty years ago [sic], it was so well constructed, and has been so admirably kept, that it equals, in every respect, the most modern house. It is snug in winter, and a charming, breezy resort in summer.<sup>15</sup>

By 1900, the police department understood that work was necessary to improve and modernize its precinct station houses. A survey of station houses indicated that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House was deficient in many ways and needed electric lighting, new quarters for captains and sergeants, metal ceilings, new skylights, new flooring, paint, and rolling venetian blinds in the dorm rooms.<sup>16</sup> The suggested improvements were probably not done immediately, since the department's annual report for 1914-1917 notes that few improvements had been made to station houses and recommended the "installation of adequate bathing, washing and toilet facilities in all station houses, as the most necessary improvement. The installation of electric lights, and the repainting of dingy interiors, were listed next in importance."<sup>17</sup> It is not clear when the building was electrified and when other improvements were made.

Because the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct encompassed a large geographical area, it was assigned a substantial number of officers. In 1885, there were seventy-eight officers at the precinct.<sup>18</sup> This was a large number in a department that was perennially under staffed in the nineteenth century. By 1900 the precinct had 138 officers.<sup>19</sup> As was typical of the period, the officers were on duty for days at a time and they lived in dormitories, known as section rooms, in the building itself, thus explaining the need for a multi-story structure. Officers generally patrolled for eight-hour stretches and then were on "reserve" in the station house for additional hours before they either went back on patrol or went home. In the late nineteenth century, an officer could be on duty for 5,800 hours per year; this was reduced to 4,700 hours in the early twentieth century.<sup>20</sup> James Lardner and Thomas Reppetto describe conditions:

Because of the reserve system, a nineteenth-century cop spent many hours in the station section room or dormitory – the police equivalent of an army barracks. . . . Typically, they could accommodate forty men in beds spaced less than two feet apart. Officers coming off patrol hung their clothes, wet or dry, on the wall.<sup>21</sup>

The station house was part of a complex that included a jail to the rear that also may have doubled as a lodging house for vagrants. Such lodging houses were found at most police precinct station houses in the city until 1896 when responsibility for vagrants was removed from the charge of the police department. Lodging houses were either in the jail or in the basement of a station house. It is not clear where the lodging house was located in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House, but departmental annual reports note that it accommodated several thousand people each year. Since the number of lodgers varied seasonally, it is possible that the basement was used in the winter when numbers were high and the jail in the summer when numbers were low. Caring for lodgers was only one of many responsibilities that fell to the police department since it was one of the few sizable bureaucracies in the city. Joshua Ruff and Michael Cronin note that "wide-ranging responsibilities, including controlling alcoholism, licensing steam boilers, inspecting tenement houses,

<sup>15</sup> Costello, *Our Police Protectors*, 287.

<sup>16</sup> New York City Police Department, *Report* (1900), 76.

<sup>17</sup> New York City Police Department, *Report* (1914-1917), 17.

<sup>18</sup> New York City Police Department, *Report of the Police Department of the City of New York* (1885), 12.

<sup>19</sup> New York City Police Department, *Report* (1890), 16.

<sup>20</sup> Bernard Whalen and Jon Whalen, *The NYPD's First Fifty Years: Politicians, Police Commissioners, and Patrolmen* (Potomac Books, 2014), 27.

<sup>21</sup> James Lardner and Thomas Reppetto, *NYPD: A City and Its Police* (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2000), 60.

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street cleaning, and even housing the homeless” fell to police officers, before these duties were assigned to new city departments.<sup>22</sup>

The jail in this station house, as in other station houses around the city, was used as a holding area for those arrested in the precinct before they could be transferred downtown for arraignment and trial. Little is known about the physical character of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House jail and evidence is conflicting. The Costello plan indicates that the prison had sixteen cells. A photograph identified as dating from 1893 appears to show a building on the site of the prison that is two stories tall with a one-story connector between the main station house and the prison.<sup>23</sup> This accords with the present character of the building. However, atlas plates from the nineteenth century and at least as late as 1934 note that the jail as a one-story structure.<sup>24</sup> A 1925 plot diagram for the police station complex shows that by this date the building was used as a garage in front and prison in back.<sup>25</sup> By 1940, when the building is visible in a tax photo taken by the city, it is a two-story structure connected to the main station house by a one-story section with a stoop and door. The garage entrance is clearly visible.<sup>26</sup>

To the south of the station house was a freestanding stable separated by a narrow courtyard. When space permitted, police precinct station houses typically had stables since patrol wagons were pulled by horses and there was a need to board the horses and store the wagons. A stable was especially important at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct because much of the patrolling in this large district was undertaken by mounted officers, as patrolling on foot would not adequately cover the district. Assignment to a rural district was not considered esteemed since in the widespread, corrupt system whereby police officers were paid off to ignore gambling, Sunday drinking, prostitution and other so-called vices, a rural district offered very little:

The nature of a patrolman’s work depended on the precinct he was assigned to. The Bronx and the northern end of Manhattan were largely rural areas containing city dumps where goats fed. Older cops liked these precincts – collectively known as Goatsville – because they were quiet. The posts tended to be large, and some patrolled on horseback. A rookie who knew how to ride, therefore, stood a good chance of being sent uptown regardless of his own preferences; if he was, his training-school buddies would commiserate with him, for, as everyone understood, Goatsville offered few if any opportunities for ‘sugar,’ or graft.”<sup>27</sup>

The site purchased by the city for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Station House was one hundred feet wide, permitting construction of both an impressive station house and a two-story stable, with a one-story wing on its north

<sup>22</sup> Joshua Ruff and Michael Cronin, *New York City Police* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 23.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.periodpaper.com/collections/new-york-city-at-the-turn-of-the-20th-cenutry-1893-1903-views-of-the-city-buildings-historic-markers/products/1893-print-32nd-precinct-mounted-police-station-nyc-original-historic-image-009767-ny2-292>, accessed January 2019.

<sup>24</sup> G. W. Bromley & Co., *Manhattan Land Book* (New York: G. W. Bromley & Co., 1934), plate 160.

<sup>25</sup> New York City Department of Buildings, “Plot Diagram,” block 2083 lot 33, alteration 9431-1925.

<sup>26</sup> New York City Municipal Archives, Department of Finance Tax Photo, block 2083 lot 37.

[http://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/detail/NYCMA~5~5~230130~533147?sort=borough%2Cblock%2Cplot%2Czip\\_code&qvq=q:block%3D2083;sort:borough%2Cblock%2Cplot%2Czip\\_code;lc:NYCMA~5~5&mi=22&trs=40](http://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/detail/NYCMA~5~5~230130~533147?sort=borough%2Cblock%2Cplot%2Czip_code&qvq=q:block%3D2083;sort:borough%2Cblock%2Cplot%2Czip_code;lc:NYCMA~5~5&mi=22&trs=40), accessed January 2018.

<sup>27</sup> Lardner and Reppetto, *NYPD*, 63-64.

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side. The stable was basically a Romanesque Revival style structure with a central vehicular entrance, round-arch doors and windows, and a pedimented cornice. The building extended completely through the lot.<sup>28</sup>

As a rural district, the 32nd Precinct was one of the first to receive signal boxes. These permitted patrol officers to send messages to the precinct house when they needed assistance. In 1903, the police department signed a contract with the Bell Telephone Company to install 661 police call boxes on poles. This was not a new technology, as it had been in use in other cities for some years by the time these boxes were installed in New York.<sup>29</sup> In 1913-14, new signal boxes on poles were installed in northern Manhattan that permitted desk officers in the precinct to push a button that lit a green light and sounded a bell in the phone on the poles, alerting a patrolling officer that he needed to communicate with the station house.<sup>30</sup>

By the early twentieth century, stables such as that at the 32nd Precinct became obsolete as the police department converted from equine-powered to motorized vehicles. The first patrol cars were purchased by the department in 1918 and radio patrol cars were inaugurated two years later.<sup>31</sup> The stable was converted into a garage, but it proved to be inadequate. In 1925, Thomas E. O'Brien, the architect for the police department, filed for a permit to alter the building into a "storehouse for dead storage of automobiles."<sup>32</sup> O'Brien worked for many years as architect for the police department and was also a lieutenant on the force. In 1929 he officially became Superintendent of Buildings for the department. At the time, the *New York Times* noted that "Lieutenant O'Brien has been largely responsible for the design of nearly all the police buildings erected in the last few years" and Police Commissioner Whalen stated that "he is worth many times his salary for what he has saved the city."<sup>33</sup> O'Brien's alteration entailed the removal of the north wall of the original building and the expansion of the building north to abut the station house, with entrances cut into the station house walls at the basement and first-floor levels connecting the two buildings. In addition, the front façade was also removed and a new brick façade in a simple utilitarian design was installed. New steel beams and footings were installed to create an entirely fireproof structure.<sup>34</sup> The new building was designed with a central vehicular entrance, five large openings with steel-frame windows, and a pedimented parapet. Although plans for the alteration were filed in 1925, work did not get underway until February 1926. At the end of 1925, with the election of James J. Walker as mayor, Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright stepped down and George V. McLaughlin was appointed as the new commissioner. McLaughlin canceled proposals to undertake extensive new precinct construction, proposing to limit new construction to "buildings which were absolutely needed."<sup>35</sup> Among the building projects that could have been canceled was the alteration to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct's stable, but this project was allowed to proceed. The project was probably approved because it fit within the new commissioner's guidelines for new construction. As he noted, "I am of the opinion that precinct station-houses should be plain, simple structures, sufficient in size to transact necessary police business, with garages

<sup>28</sup> Since early records are not available, it is unclear if the stable was erected in 1871-72 along with the station house or was built later. Stylistically, the stable appears to be about a decade later. The stable appears on an 1885 atlas; see E. Robinson and R. H. Pigeon, *Robinson's Atlas of the City of New York* (New York: E. Robinson, 1885), plate 30.

<sup>29</sup> Whalen, *The NYPD's First Fifty Years*, 29.

<sup>30</sup> Whalen, *The NYPD's First Fifty Years*, 77.

<sup>31</sup> Ruff and Cronin, *New York City Police*, 41.

<sup>32</sup> New York City Department of Buildings, block 2983 lot 33, alteration 2005-1925.

<sup>33</sup> "Gets New Police Post," *New York Times*, February 28, 1929, 27.

<sup>34</sup> Alteration 2005-1925.

<sup>35</sup> New York City Police Department, "Introductory Letter from Police Commissioner George C. McLaughlin to Mayor Walker," *Annual Report of the Police Department*, 1926. 16.



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adequate to take care of department automobiles.”<sup>36</sup> The simple design of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct’s new garage was in total accord with the commissioner’s views.

The station house on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street was in use for just under one hundred years. This was a period of dramatic change in New York City, in the northern Manhattan neighborhood that it served, and in policing in the city. By the 1890s, the surrounding area was undergoing rapid development, first of single-family row houses and then, following the opening of the subway beneath Broadway in 1904, of apartment buildings for the working and middle classes. As the population increased, new precincts were formed out of the large territory originally patrolled by this precinct.<sup>37</sup> Major changes in the police department that would have impacted this precinct and others in Manhattan include increasing ethnic diversity in the police force as the largely Irish and German force began to accept Italians and Jews, and, in 1911, accepted its first African American officer. The number of black officers increased slowly and the few officers of color were generally assigned to work in precincts with large black communities such as Central Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant. In the post-war period, the area served by the station house on Amsterdam Avenue and West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street became quite diverse, with large concentrations of African Americans (largely in the eastern portion of the area, and many Puerto Rican and other Spanish-speaking residents to the west). The number of black officers also rose, but not in proportion to their numbers in the population. By 1950, the city had 368 African American cops, which was less than two percent of the force.<sup>38</sup> Also significant to the history of the city’s police department was the appointment of six women officers in 1918.<sup>39</sup>

The station house complex on the southwest corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street served the police department until a new station house was completed at 451 West 151<sup>st</sup> Street in 1975; the old station house complex was closed at this time. By the 1970s, the older building was completely obsolete and did not serve the needs for efficient policing and community service. The station house had been built, for example, with floors providing accommodations for police officers could sleep during their long hours of service. These were no longer necessary. The 1960s and 1970s saw the construction of a significant number of new precinct station houses throughout New York City. This was especially true in northern Manhattan, where eight of the nine precinct station houses are in buildings erected since the 1960s.

In 1984, New York City sold the old station house to Franklyn Manners, who transferred it later that year to St. Luke’s A. M. E. Church.<sup>40</sup> The plot was divided into two separate tax lots on August 29, 1984.<sup>41</sup> Apparently, the city retained ownership of the garage site; finally selling that property in 2003.<sup>42</sup> The station house was designated as a New York City landmark in 1986 and was restored by St. Luke’s A. M. E. Church c. 2000. It is now rented to community-based non-profit organizations. The former prison is now a medical office. The

<sup>36</sup> “Introductory Letter,” 17.

<sup>37</sup> In 2019, the precinct, now known as the Thirtieth Police Precinct, was bounded by West 137<sup>th</sup> and West 141<sup>st</sup> Streets on the south, West 155<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, the Hudson River on the west, and Bradhurst Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue on the east.

<sup>38</sup> Lardner and Reppetto, *NYPD*, 248-249.

<sup>39</sup> Ruff and Cronin, *New York City Police*, 41.

<sup>40</sup> New York City Department of Finance, New York City to Franklyn Manners, January 24, 1984, reel 758, page 63; Franklyn Manners to St. Luke A. M. E. Church, October 11, 1984, reel 838, page 1074, <https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/DS/DocumentSearch/BBLResult>, accessed January 2018.

<sup>41</sup> New York City Department of Finance, Office of the Register, Indenture, August 29, 1984, [https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/DS/DocumentSearch/DocumentImageView?doc\\_id=FT\\_1460000253846](https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/DS/DocumentSearch/DocumentImageView?doc_id=FT_1460000253846), accessed January 2019.

<sup>42</sup> New York City Department of Finance, New York City to 1850 Amsterdam Realty, LLC, January 7, 2003, <https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/DS/DocumentSearch/BBLResult?page=6>, accessed January 2018.



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former garage is vacant at the time of the completion of this nomination with plans for its conversion to rented community space.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Viteritti, Joseph P. "Police." In *The Encyclopedia of New York City*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Edited by Kenneth T. Jackson. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.

Whalen, Bernard and Jon Whalen. *The NYPD's First Fifty Years: Politicians, Police Commissioners, and Patrolmen*. Dulles: Potomac Books, 2014.

### 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 Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .24 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 588971 4520375  
Zone Easting Northing

3                       
Zone Easting Northing

2                       
Zone Easting Northing

4                       
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated site include the entire lot that historically accommodated the 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House.

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32nd Police Precinct Station House Complex  
New York, New York Co., NY

1850-1854 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, NY 10031



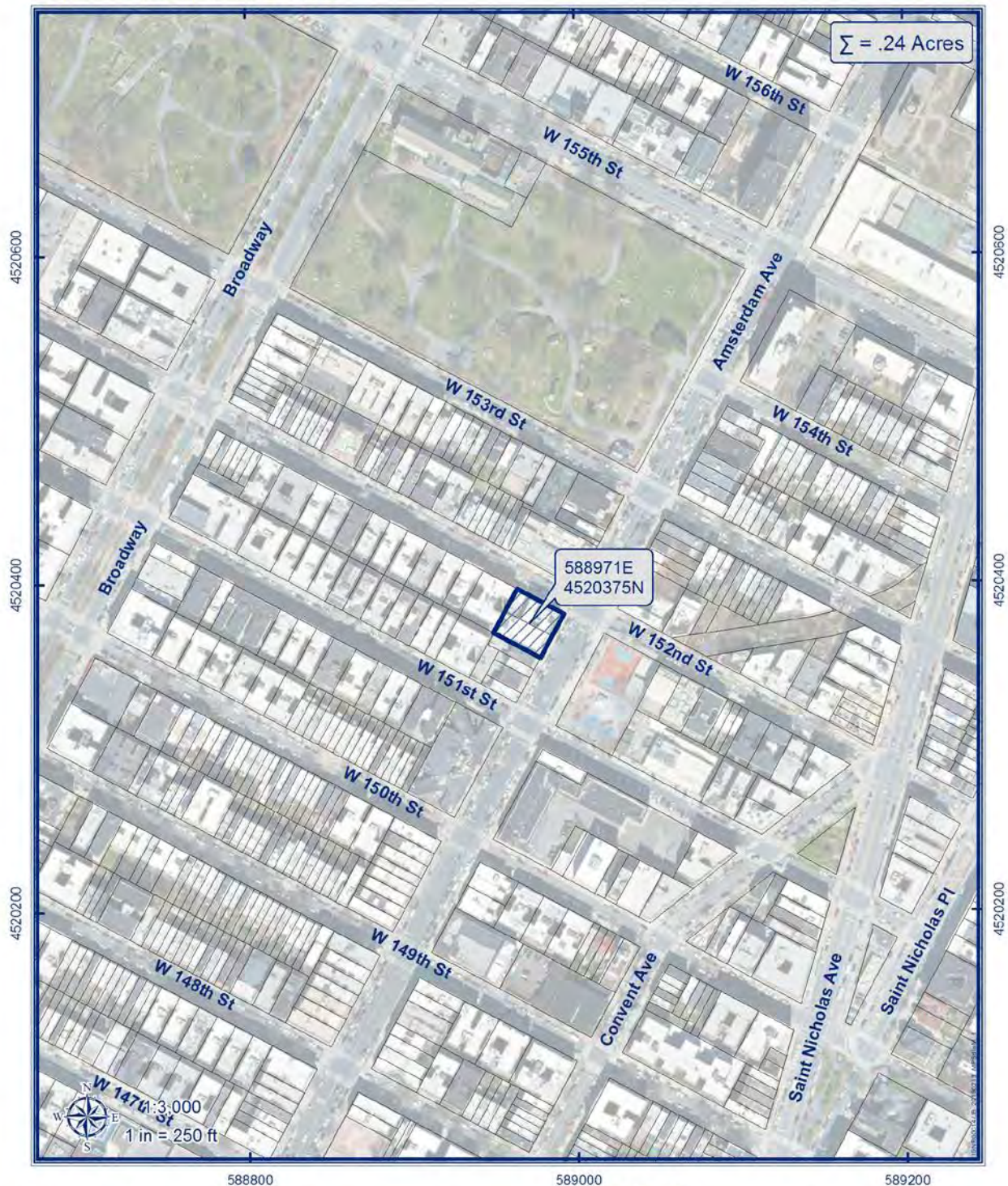


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32nd Police Precinct Station House Complex  
New York, New York Co., NY

1850-1854 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, NY 10031



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

0 80 160 320 Feet

32nd Precinct  
Station House  
Complex



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Andrew Dolkart (edited by Jennifer Betsworth, NY SHPO)  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 2019  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town New York state NY zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs:

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: 32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex

City or Vicinity: New York

County: New York State: NY

Photographer: Andrew Dolkart

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0001  
View looking northwest on Amsterdam Avenue of garage and station house. February 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0002  
View looking southwest of station house. January 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0003  
View looking west of mansard roof on east façade of station house. February 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0004  
View looking west of stone quoin on east façade of station house. February 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0005  
View looking east of interior stair of station house. January 2019

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NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0006  
View looking northeast on third floor of station house. January 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0007  
View looking west of window enframement on third floor of station house. January 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0008  
View looking southwest of jail. February 2019

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0009  
View looking southwest of garage. January 2019.

NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0010  
View looking west of first-story interior of garage. January 2019

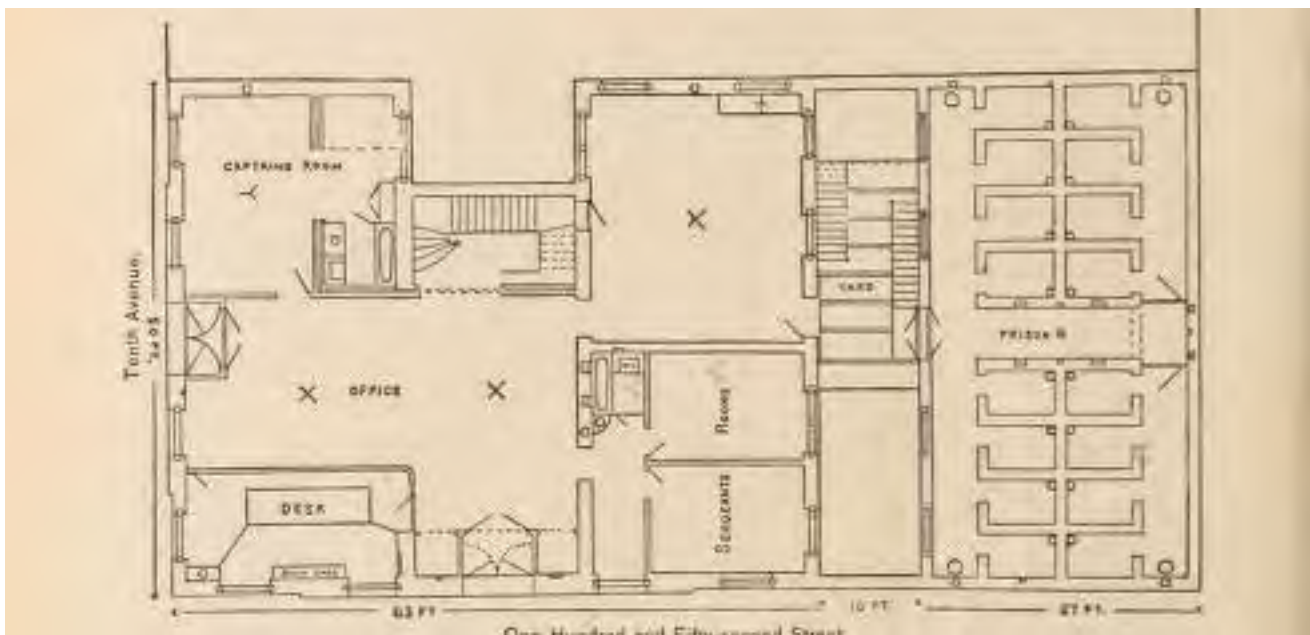
NY\_New York Co\_32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex\_0011  
View looking west of second-story interior of garage. January 2019

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



New York Co., NY  
County and State



Sections 9-end page 24



32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House Complex  
Name of Property

New York Co., NY  
County and State



32D PRECINCT ( MOUNTED ) POLICE STATION, AMSTERDAM AVENUE  
AND WEST 152D STREET.

32<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Station House, c. 1893. <https://www.periodpaper.com/collections/new-york-city-at-the-turn-of-the-20th-century-1893-1903-views-of-the-city-buildings-historic-markers/products/1893-print-32nd-precinct-mounted-police-station-nyc-original-historic-image-009767-ny2-292>



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	32nd Police Precinct Station House Complex	
Multiple Name:		
State & County:	NEW YORK, New York	

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
6/24/2019	7/19/2019	8/5/2019	8/8/2019	8/9/2019

Reference number:	SG100004243
Nominator:	SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

☒ Accept      ☐ Return      ☐ Reject      8/8/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	
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Recommendation/ Criteria	
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Reviewer	Alexis Abernathy	Discipline	Historian
Telephone	(202)354-2236	Date	

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Kate Lemos McHale  
Director of Research

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

212 669 7902 tel  
212 669 7797 fax

June 4, 2019

R. Daniel Mackay  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: 32nd Police Precinct Station House Complex (a.k.a. 40th Police Precinct; 30th Police Precinct), 1850-1854 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan (Block 2083, Lots 33 and 35)

Dear Deputy Commissioner Mackay:

I am writing on behalf of Chair Sarah Carroll in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the 32nd Police Precinct Station House Complex, located at 1850-1854 Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan, for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The agency has reviewed the materials you submitted and has determined that the complex appears to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. We note that the complex is a New York City individual landmark, designated on July 15, 1986. Therefore, based on this review, the Commission supports the nomination of the complex.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Lemos McHale". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kate Lemos McHale  
klemosmchale@lpc.nyc.gov



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Acting Commissioner



17 June 2019

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following eight nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Fourth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, Kings County  
Camp Hill School, Pomona, Rockland County  
32 Police Precinct Station House Complex, New York, New York County ✓  
Fultonville Historic District, Fultonville, Montgomery County (280 owners, 0 objections)  
McNaught Family Farm, Bovina Center Vicinity, Delaware County (3 owners, 0 objections)  
Frederick and Annie Wagner Residence and St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Smithtown, Suffolk County  
Dorrance Brooks Square Historic District, New York, New York County (115 owners, 0 objections)  
East Marion Road Historic District, East Marion, Suffolk County (158 owners, 10 objections)

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office