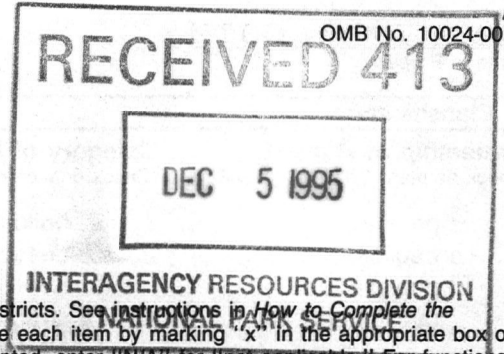


1544

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 Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex

other names/site number Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Complex

2. Location

street & number ^{RBB} Madison Ave., Park Ave. So., E. 23rd-25th Sts. not for publication

city or town New York vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10010

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 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.)

J.W. Aldrin 1 June '95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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:)

Edson A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
1-19-96

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival:
Italian Renaissance

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite
walls limestone

roof quarry tiles, single membrane,
~~xxx~~ built-up, with gravel,
~~xxx~~
other: bronze

Narrative Description

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

OMB No. 1024-0018, NPS Form
RECEIVED 413

DEC 5 1995
Met Life Home Office Complex
New York, New York

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Description

The Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex occupies two square blocks on the east side of Madison Square Park in Manhattan. The complex includes three buildings: the Tower (1906-09; designated a National Historic Landmark in 1978), the North Building (1929-50; contributing), and the South Building (1953-60; non-contributing).

The 50-story Tower and the 14-story South Building occupy the block bounded by Madison Avenue, Park Avenue South, East 23rd Street, and East 24th Street. The South Building is connected to the Tower at each floor level. The 31-story North Building occupies the block bounded by Madison Avenue, Park Avenue South, East 24th Street, and East 25th Street. The North Building is connected to the South Building and Tower by a pedestrian bridge at the eighth floor and by a tunnel beneath East 24th Street. (These are both considered non-historic features and are not counted.)

The Tower as seen today is somewhat altered from its original appearance. It consists of a severely simple 366 foot shaft that extends from the street level through the 30th story. A balustraded loggia extends from the 31st through the 35th story. Above the loggia is a recessed four-story plinth supporting a pyramidal spire and an octagonal turret of anodized aluminum. Atop the turret rests an eight sided electric beacon. It is clad in limestone with Tuckahoe marble moldings around the windows and a granite base. At each floor level of each elevation are three sets of triple, rectangular windows. The recessed windows are fixed, single pane aluminum units. A twenty-six-and-one-half foot clock dial is centered on each facade, spanning the 25th through the 27th stories. The clock dials are faced with mosaic tiles with bronze numbers and hands and decorative carved limestone at the perimeter.

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CONTINUATION SHEETMet Life Home Office Complex
New York, New York

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The second floor of the Tower retains the original Executive Office suite, and currently houses the MetLife Archives. The suite features mahogany wall panels and door and window surrounds, ornate plaster cornices, and marble mantels. Floors 41 to 45 are accessible only by stair. These stair halls retain their original materials: marble treads, mosaic tile landings, ceramic tile wainscot, and decorative cast iron balustrade. The remainder of the interior of the Tower was extensively altered during the construction of the South Building in order to match the materials used in the new building.

The North Building is largely intact. It is a massive building, with a distinctive stepped shape formed by its numerous setbacks. The four corner entrances feature three-story high loggias with arched openings on either side of each corner. There is a fifth entrance at the center of 24th Street. The building has a steel frame and is clad with Rockwood Aday Variegated Alabama limestone, with a base of Deer Island granite. The floors and door surrounds at the loggias are of Pink Tennessee marble. The limestone ashlar units are dressed smooth, with bas relief carving located at parapet walls. The windows at street level are tall multi-pane units constructed of nickel bronze. All other windows are three-over-three double-hung units, constructed of bronze during the first two building campaigns and of aluminum during the third and final building campaign. In front of each second-story window, there is a carved openwork limestone grille. Above the several bays of loading docks on 25th Street are white metal openwork grilles.

The monumental three-story lobby of the North Building features walls of travertine and Italian Crema marble. The coffered ceiling of the lobby is polychromed with aluminum leaf highlights. There are a series of aluminum leaf bas-relief panels mounted on the walls above the openings to the elevator lobbies. Above the ground floor, all building services, including elevators, stairways, corridors, and toilets, are massed in a central core

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of the structure, leaving the outer floor spaces free for offices. Public areas are constructed with terrazzo floors, high marble baseboards, flat plaster walls, and plaster ceilings with a modest stepped molding at the perimeter. Office spaces are large, open plan spaces.

There are four stories below street level: the first is occupied by kitchens, the second and third by employee dining rooms/ cafeterias, and the fourth is a mechanical floor. The dining rooms are large open spaces with adjacent serveries. The dining rooms and the elevator lobbies on these levels are decorated with wall mounted murals on canvas. Some of the original murals, by Andrew Wyeth, were removed and relocated to the lobby of the South Building, while other murals remain.

The 14-story South Building is a steel frame structure with granite walls at street level and Alabama limestone cladding with stainless steel spandrels on the upper stories. Windows are aluminum, with fixed single-pane sash. The main lobby of the South Building and the main lobby of the Tower were joined during the construction of the South Building. Both lobbies have polished white marble floors and walls. Accents of a darker polished marble occur at the baseboard, column enclosures, and several lengths of walls. The monochrome painted sheet rock ceiling has large, recessed fluorescent lighting panels. Doors and trim are polished stainless steel. Above the first floor are utilitarian office floors, constructed with painted sheet rock walls and dropped tile ceilings. Upper elevator lobbies have travertine veneer walls, with terrazzo floors and dropped ceilings. Corridors on executive office floors feature wood paneling.

The Board Room from the original Home Office Building (1893) is located on the eleventh floor of the South Building. It is sumptuously decorated with a high carved mahogany wainscot, tooled polychrome leather wall covering, and a highly ornamental, polychromed coffered ceiling.

Name of Property

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 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 Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1906-1950

Significant Dates

1906-1909

1929-1950

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

LeBrun, Pierre and Michel;

Waid, D. Everett; Corbett, Harvey

Wiley; and Angilly, Arthur O.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MetLife Archives, New York, NY

Met Life Home Office
Name of Property

New York, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	585617	4510333
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	585542	4510199

3	18	585416	4510272
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	18	585483	4510402

See continuation sheet

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 contact: Peter D. Shaver (see continuation sheet)

organization Field Services Bureau, NYSOPRHP date May 10, 1995

street & number Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Met Life Home Office Complex
New York, New York

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The Metropolitan Life (MetLife) Home Office Complex is nationally significant in the areas of industry, commerce, and architecture as the headquarters of one of the nation's most important 20th century corporations and for the innovative designs of the various components of the building complex over a 44 year period. The complex symbolizes the company's rise to prominence during the first half of the 20th century not only as a premiere insurance company and one of the world's largest private investors, but also as an arbiter of corporate design and employee welfare. The original National Register nomination included only the Metropolitan Life Insurance Tower at 1 Madison Avenue, which was designated a National Historic Landmark on July 2, 1978. (Refer to the nomination form for the Tower for more detailed information concerning that structure and the history of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.) The North Building (contributing) and the South Building (non-contributing), developed over a period of 31 years to accommodate the growth of the company, are being added to the nomination. For the purposes of the expanded nomination, and to encompass all structures under a single name, the property name is being changed to the Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex.

The history of the Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex on Madison Square is a many-layered one. Beginning in 1893 with the completion of Napoleon Le Brun's Home Office building on the corner of Madison Avenue and East 23rd Street, the burgeoning insurance company's unchecked growth launched a building program of some fifteen separate expansions that was to last almost 70 years and which ultimately subsumed two city blocks.

Although Michel and Pierre Le Brun's 1909 Metropolitan Tower is the only original fabric which remains today from the first episodes of the company's building campaign (except for the reconstructed 1893 board room), the Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex as a whole is historically significant

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New York, New York

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because it is emblematic of the growth and development of American big business and corporate imagery. Indeed, the complex bespeaks as much for the explosion of New York's office bureaucracies and corporate America's evolving identity in the early and mid-20th century as it does for this century's rich architectural history .

By 1909 the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company had become, according to scholar Marquis James, "the largest life insurance company in the world in point of business in force." (1) The firm went on to become the world's largest private investor and, in the opinion of distinguished institutional historian Morton Keller, "one of the twentieth century's prime symbols of corporate vastness and efficiency." (2) Over the years, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company introduced and successfully implemented a number of notable innovations in the life insurance industry. (3) In addition, they instituted a series of nationally significant social welfare projects. Consistent with its progressive, socially responsible public demeanor, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company similarly demonstrated a distinguished concern for its employees' well-being. Ample space was reserved for employee dining rooms, lounges, recreation rooms, and gymnasiums in each of Metropolitan's new buildings erected on Madison Square, and press releases of the era reflect a company intent on placating its work force.

Apart from the social and communal aspects of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's edifices, the complex of buildings which today stands on Madison Square encapsulates a range of important styles and iconography. From the limestone-clad Art Deco setbacks of the North Building, to the "modernized" Renaissance Revival Tower, to the International style South Building, the compound is the built analog of some 60 years of American architectural history and corporate posturing.

Pierre and Michel LeBrun's 50-story Metropolitan Tower was erected between 1906-09. The Tower was a boldly scaled campanile of Tuckahoe marble topped

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by an enormous roof and cupola which rose seven hundred feet to pass the Singer Tower as the tallest building in the world, a title it held until completion of the Woolworth Building in 1913. It consisted of a five-story, 68-foot high base that repeated the elaborate features of the lower portion of the adjacent main building (demolished in 1958); a severely simple 366 foot shaft that extended from the sixth through the 28th story and displayed three sets of triple, rectangular windows on each face; a continuous line of boldly projecting double-bracketed balconies at the 29th and 30th floors; and a balustraded Ionic loggia that extended from the 31st through the 35th story and was topped by a recessed four-story plinth supporting a pyramidal spire and an octagonal turret. Atop the turret rested an eight-sided electric beacon with eight-foot diameter bases. Each side of the Tower supported a giant twenty-six and one-half foot clock dial that partially covered the 25th through the 27th stories.

The North Building, designed by D. Everett Waid and Harvey Wiley Corbett, was conceived as a single entity but was built in three distinct phases between 1929 and 1950. Corbett and Waid's original plan, as announced in The New York Times on 3 November 1929, boldly called for a telescoping tower some 100 stories high. The proposed skyscraper, of metal and glass instead of masonry construction as dictated by city building codes, was intended to be the world's tallest, and resembled many of Hugh Ferriss' contemporary designs. However, the Depression forced MetLife to curtail its plans, and the monumental limestone building finally realized is essentially the base of the planned tower.

It was during this period of major architectural growth that MetLife also instituted many of its social welfare projects, including the publication of health care booklets, development of the nation's first visiting nurse service and city-wide surveys of disease, and construction of low and middle-income housing units.(4) Three huge apartment complexes that the company developed in New York City are the one built in Parkchester in the

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Bronx in 1938-42 (for 40,000 residents), Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan in 1947 (for over 8,000 families), and the adjacent and smaller Peter Cooper Village in 1947 which is only four blocks west of the MetLife Home Office Complex.

D. Everett Waid (1864-1939) received his architectural training at Monmouth College in Illinois and Columbia University in New York. He started his practice in Chicago and moved to New York City in 1898. In 1919 he received the commission to design the 16-story Renaissance inspired New Annex for MetLife which was built across East 24th Street from the Tower, on the site of the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. This important Neoclassical style church, which was designed by McKim, Mead and White, had only been built a few years earlier, in 1906. When it was to be demolished, Waid tried unsuccessfully to find someone to move it to another site, but some of its parts were salvaged and reused on other buildings or placed in collections. The New Annex was completed in 1921 and demolished in 1946. After the New Annex, Waid designed (with a partner) the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company apartments in Queens, which were built in 1924 and were the company's first effort in developing moderate-income housing.

In 1929 Waid was given the commission to design the monumental North Building, in partnership with Harvey Wiley Corbett. Corbett (1873-1954) was a graduate of Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and started his career as a draftsman in Cass Gilbert's New York City office in 1901. Active as a teacher at Columbia's School of Architecture, he was a major proponent of the new phenomenon of the skyscraper and, if the original plan for the North Building had been fully executed, it would have been a major achievement for both the architects as well as for MetLife. Some of Corbett's major surviving works in New York City (all in partnership with Wallace K. Harrison, William MacMurry, or Frank J. Helmle) include: Bush Tower (1918, Manhattan), Master Apartments and Roerich Museum (1929, Manhattan), National Title Guaranty Building (1930, Brooklyn), New York City Criminal Courts

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Building (1939, Manhattan), and his most well known work, Rockefeller Center (1929-39, Manhattan), on which he was a partner with several other well known architects.

The first unit of the North Building was begun in 1929 and construction was completed in 1932. This first stage included the Park Avenue South half of the block's boundaries. Rising 28 stories above and four stories below street level, it made available to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company 22 acres of new office space. (5)

According to Corbett, the new headquarters was "... not a show building from the general public's point of view. In fact, it is a highly specialized building designed primarily as a machine to do as efficiently as possible the particular headquarters' work of our largest insurance company." (6) Eighty-foot deep floors were made possible by full air conditioning, and indirect artificial lighting increased in intensity with the distance from the windows. The acoustic-tile ceiling stepped up in six-inch increments from a low point near the core to a level just above the windows, providing ample duct space with minimum loss of natural light. (7)

Aside from its sheer vastness and the communal, utilitarian aspects of the facilities for work, eating, exercise and recreation, the principal architectural points of interest lay in the building's unusual shape and in its monumentally scaled street-level arcades and lobbies. (8) The monumental lobbies were planned to accommodate the 25,000 workers expected to occupy the completed building. Demands for maximum space required the largest building bulk permissible under zoning ordinances and dictated the size and arrangement of the setbacks in the upper stories.

Of the four stories below street level, the first was occupied by kitchens, the second and third by employee dining rooms/cafeterias capable of serving some 5,000 meals a day, and the fourth was designated for electrical

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equipment. The dining rooms were decorated throughout with seven-foot high murals painted by artists Edward Trumbull, D. Putnam Brinley and Nicholas L. Pavloff. The subjects of the murals were taken variously from Rip Van Winkle, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Huckleberry Finn, scenes from the early history of New Amsterdam and New York, and the wild animals and birds of North America. The effect of the murals was said (in a MetLife publication) to "... bring to the employees a feeling of cessation from their work through the contemplation of artistic and amusing masterpieces." (9)

Construction of the second unit of the North Building on the corner site at Madison Avenue and 25th Street was begun in 1937 and completed in late 1940. With 28 stories above and 4 stories below street-level like the first unit, the second unit added some 487,000 square feet more office space to the complex. The second unit was a replica of one-half of the first unit, and filled the northwestern quadrant of the block. It featured a three-story high arched entrance lobby at street level, and along with the first and third units comprises the monumental assemblage we see today.

At the time of construction, the second unit -- the first large business building in New York City to be air-conditioned throughout -- was billed as "the last word in office buildings" featuring 32 acres of "manufactured weather." (10) Similarly, it was said to set the standard for the construction of buildings in which large numbers of workers were employed, having been planned to furnish "ideal working conditions for the clerical force." (11) Press releases boasted that the building featured fluorescent lighting, and that it was completely fireproof; "... the only wood in the building will be the floor in the gymnasium ... and even this will be of fireproofed maple." (12)

Like the first and third units, a distinctive feature of the second unit was the massing of all building services, including elevators, stairways, corridors, toilets and locker space in a central core of the structure,

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leaving the outer floor spaces free for maximum working space. A new innovation in the second unit was the construction of cooling towers on the roof, by means of which water for the air-conditioning system could be cooled and recycled.

In keeping with the design of the first unit dining rooms, murals decorated the walls of the employee dining and lounge spaces housed in the four stories below street level. Murals included scenes depicting life in colonial America by N. C. Wyeth; scenes from Moby Dick by Griffith Bailey Coale; a series of panels by D. Putnam Brinley showing the recreation customs of 19th-century America; scenes taken from folk songs by Carl Roters; and scenes depicting early transportation methods by Nicholas Pavloff. (13)

Before construction of the final component of the North Building could begin, both Napoleon LeBrun's 1903-05 Old Annex and D. Everett Waid's 1919-21 New Annex had to be demolished, thus making the third unit the fourth building to occupy the corner site since 1906. The bridge which had connected the Old Annex to the Tower was replaced upon completion of construction of the third unit.

The third and final unit was designed following the original plans of Waid and Corbett, with the addition to the team of Arthur O. Angilly. It was constructed between 1946 and 1950. The third unit was a smaller replica of the first and second units, and completed the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's extensive building program on the block. Like its predecessors, the third unit was clad on the exterior in Rockwood Aday Variegated Alabama limestone, with a course of Deer Island granite at street level.

Before construction could begin on the first component of the South Building in the eastern half of the block bounded by 23rd and 24th streets, several of Napoleon Le Brun's 19th-century additions to the Tower were summarily

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demolished. A statement made to the public explained that the company had elected for demolition and new construction as opposed to remodelling the old office buildings because it was more economically feasible, and because substantial floor space would be gained in a new structure through the elimination of interior courtyards. Company statements further asserted that the new structure would depend on mass and line for architectural effect, rather than on exterior ornamentation, and that its clean-cut design would blend into and complement the soaring lines of the Tower while harmonizing with the more modern execution of the newer North Building. (14)

Preliminary studies for the new building were prepared by Leonard Shultz & Associates. After Shultz's death in 1951, the work was carried on by the successor firm of Lloyd Morgan and Eugene Meroni. Upon Meroni's death in 1957, the firm of Lloyd Morgan were the sole successors.

The first phase of the 14-story South Building was erected between 1953-57. The structure featured granite walls at street level and Alabama limestone cladding with stainless steel spandrels at the upper stories. Construction of the second and final phase of the South Building began in 1958 and necessitated the demolition of Napoleon Le Brun's 1893 Home Office building. The final phase matched the construction materials of the first phase. An interesting feature of the final phase of the new South Building, is the recreation on the eleventh floor of the ca. 1893 Board Room, the only remaining vestige of the first Home Office on Madison Square. Because the South Building is not exceptionally significant architecturally and no exceptionally significant events occurred in the history of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company during the years of its construction, the South Building is considered non-contributing to the National Register nomination because of its age.

Between 1961 and 1964 the Tower was altered with the intent of making it harmonize with the remainder of the complex, particularly with the South

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Building, which was completed at the same time. Workers reduced overhanging balconies and corners throughout, and along the street facades on the second and third stories, they removed the coupled columns and pilasters. Limestone was put in place of decaying marble and square masonry columns with steel cores were installed in place of round stone columns in the loggias between the 31st and 35th stories. Decorative lion's heads and other ornamentation were removed. The gold-leafed bronze roof of the cupola was removed and replaced with weather-resistant anodized aluminum. In addition, the clock and beacon mechanisms were modernized, the clock hands rebuilt, and the clock dials cleaned.

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Notes

1. Quoted in *Metropolitan Tower National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, prepared by George R. Adams (Nashville, 1977), p. 2.
2. Quoted in *Ibid.*, p. 2.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 2.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 3.
5. "The Annex Comes Down to Make Way for the Last Unit of the New Home Office Building," *Home Office* (September 1946), p. 10. (Met Life Archives)
6. Harvey Wiley Corbett, "Metropolitan Life Insurance Company New Home Office Building in New York," *Architectural Record* 74 (September 1933), p. 175.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 177.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 178.
9. "Metropolitan Information Service," *Home Office* (14 December 1933). (Met Life Archives)
10. "The Last Word in Office Buildings," *System and Business Management* (January 1934), p. 11.
11. "Huge Building Planned for Metropolitan Life," *United States Review & Southern Underwriter* (28 February 1931), p. 56.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 56.
13. "Unit 2 - Home Office," Met Life press release, p. 2. (Met Life Archives)
14. Press Release (30 November 1953). (Met Life Archives)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Met Life Home Office
New York, New York

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Major Bibliographical References

Articles, press releases, miscellaneous newspaper clippings in *The Home Office Building Files*, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Archives, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York:

"The Annex Comes Down to Make Way for the Last Unit of the New Home Office Building," *The Home Office* (September 1946), pp. 8-10.

"Another Landmark Will Be Replaced," Met Life press release.

"Another Unit Will Soon Appear on the Home Office Skyline," *The Home Office* (September 1938), pp. 14-17.

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"Demolition of Home Office Annexes Is First Step in Completing New Unit," *The Home Office* (Fall 1946).

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National Park Service

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New York, New York

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The expanded property designation is bounded by Madison Avenue, Park Avenue South, East 23rd Street, and East 25th Street. East 24th Street runs east/west and bisects the Complex. The North Building, located north of East 24th Street, is connected to the South Building and Tower by a pedestrian bridge at the eighth floor and by a tunnel beneath 24th Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn around existing city blocks to encompass all structures of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Complex at Madison Square. The boundary includes the North Building, the South Building, and the Tower as well as the pedestrian bridge and underground tunnel that connect the structures across the city block that bisects the complex.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Met Life Home Office
New York, New York

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Form Prepared By

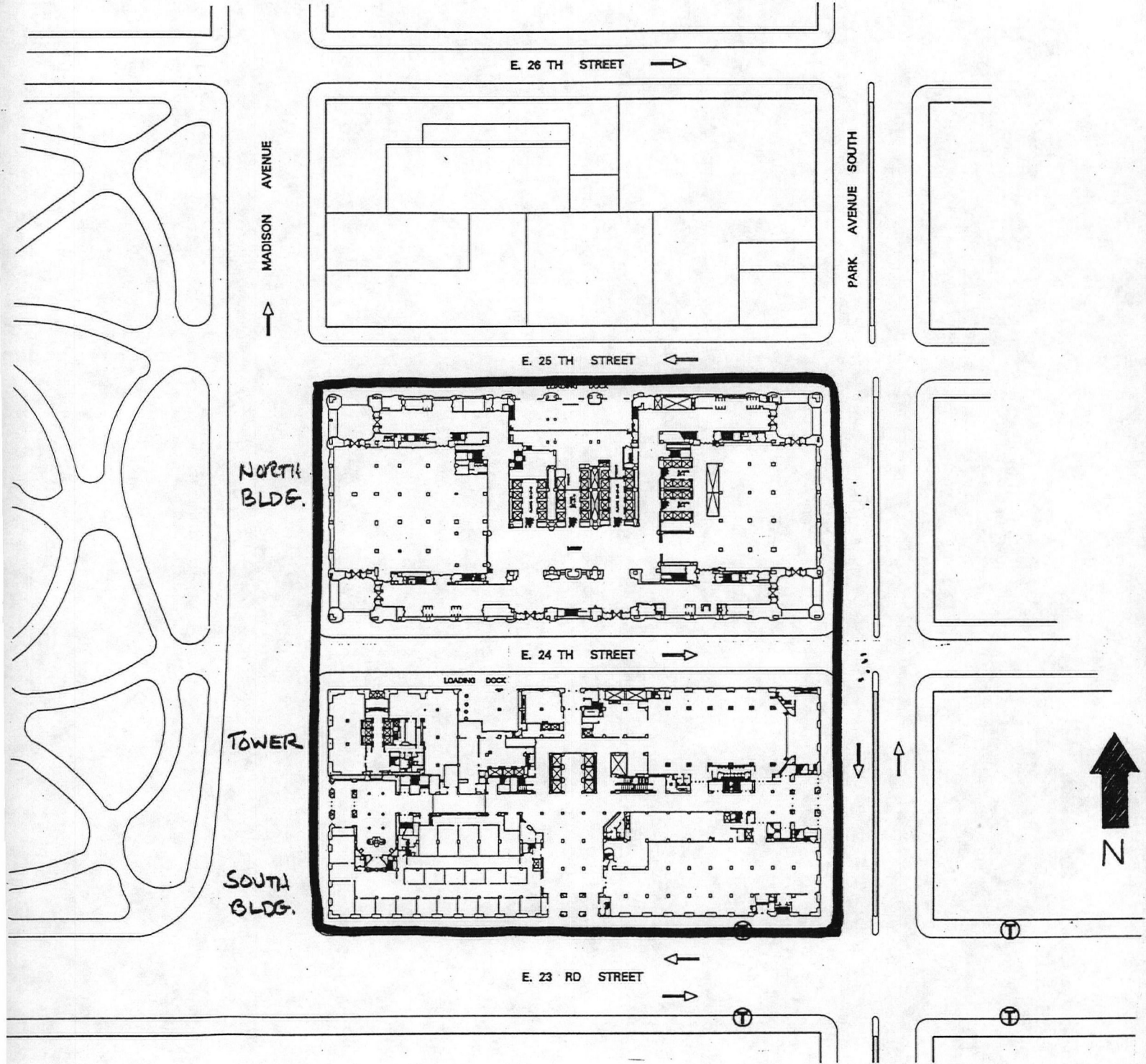
Research and nomination prepared by:

Claudia Kavenagh, Senior Associate, and
Stacy Albanese, Staff Historian
Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway Suite 1601
New York, NY 10010

Edited by:

Peter D. Shaver, New York State Historic Preservation Office

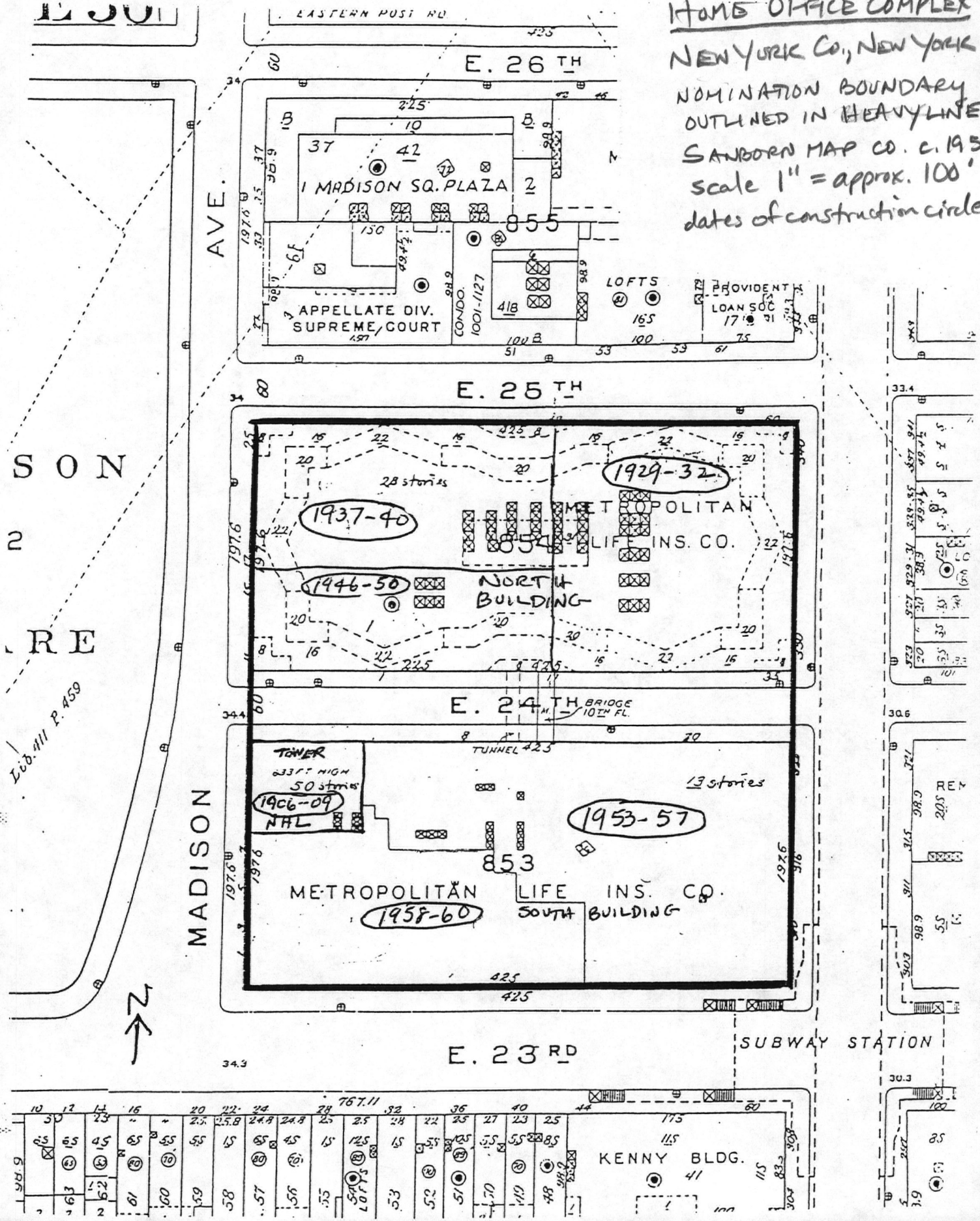
METROPOLITAN LIFE
HOME OFFICE COMPLEX
NEW YORK CO., NEW YORK
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1" = approx. 120'



METROPOLITAN
LIFE

HOME OFFICE COMPLEX
NEW YORK CO., NEW YORK

NOMINATION BOUNDARY
OUTLINED IN HEAVY LINE
SANBORN MAP CO. C. 1950
scale 1" = approx. 100'
dates of construction circled



AVE.

MADISON

EASTERN POST RD

E. 26 TH

E. 25 TH

E. 24 TH BRIDGE
TUNNEL 423
10 TH FL.

E. 23 RD

SUBWAY STATION

1 MADISON SQ. PLAZA

APPELLATE DIV.
SUPREME COURT

CONDO.
1001-1127

LOFTS

PROVIDENT
LOAN SOC

1937-40

1946-50

1929-32

METROPOLITAN
LIFE INS. CO.

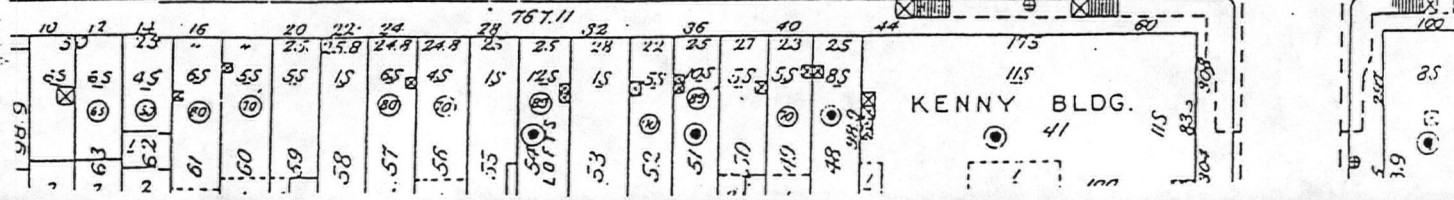
NORTH
BUILDING

TOWER
333 FT HIGH
50 stories
1906-09
NHL

1953-57

METROPOLITAN
LIFE INS. CO.
1958-60
SOUTH
BUILDING

KENNY BLDG.



SON
2
RE

Sub. 411 P. 459



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York

DATE RECEIVED: 12/05/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/20/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/05/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/19/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001544

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 1.19.96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building and Tower
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyrner

1994

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

View looking south-east

#1



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyncer

1994

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

View looking south-east

2



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyncer

1994

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, N.Y., NY 10010

View looking east

3



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyner

1994

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

Detail looking north-east

4



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyner

1999

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

View looking north

5



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyner

1995

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

11 Madison Avenue main lobby, looking north-west

#6



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building
New York, New York

Photographer: Building Conservation Associates

1995

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

11 Madison Avenue upper floor elevator lobby

7



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building
New York, New York

Photographer: Building Conservation Associates

1995

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

11 Madison Avenue 27th floor gymnasium

8



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, North Building
New York, New York

Photographer: Building Conservation Associates
1995

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

11 Madison Avenue second basement cafeteria

#9



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, Tower
New York, New York

Photographer: Isaiah Wyner

1995

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

1 Madison Avenue main lobby elevator lobby

10



Metropolitan Life Home Office Complex, Tower

New York, New York

Photographer: Building Conservation Associates

1995

Negative at: Building Conservation Associates, Inc.
902 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

1 Madison Avenue upper floor elevator lobby

11

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BROOKLYN QUADRANGLE NEW YORK 7.5 MINUTE SERIES PLANIMETRIC



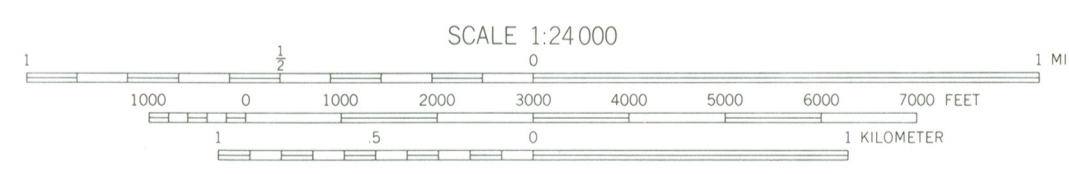
METROPOLITAN LIFE HOME OFFICE COMPLEX Madison Ave., Park Ave. S., East 23rd to 25th Sts. New York Co., New York Zone 18 Brooklyn Quad. 1. 585614/4610333 2. 585642/4610139 3. 585616/4610272 4. 585483/4610402

Prepared and published in 1975 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Map base from 1967 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using 1974 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensely developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards. Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.

1975 revisions by F. G. Califano



Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum. 1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid. Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.

10,000-foot ticks based on the New York Plane Coordinate grid, Long Island Zone.

SPECIAL TOPOGRAPHIC EDITION ENTIRE MAP AREA IS WITHIN THE NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN URBAN AREA contours, at 10-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1967 U.S. Geological Survey map. Dashed lines represent 5-foot contours. Datum is mean sea level.

Table with 2 columns: Symbol and Description. Includes entries for State, County, Town or City, Incorporated Village, Federal-Aid Urban Area, and various road types.

Table with 2 columns: Symbol and Description. Includes entries for Touring Route markers (Interstate, U.S., State, County road, Interchange number) and Undivided highways and streets (Wide mall, Narrow mall or barrier, Vehicle track or trail).