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NYC: Brooklyn Museum - Steinberg Family Sculpture Garden - Four Pairs of Pegasus Figures from the New York City Fire Services Pumping Station

Four Pairs of Pegasus Figures
Attributed to Harry Lowe, 1934
From the New York City Fire Services Pumping Station, Neptune Avenue at West 23rd Street, Coney Island, Brooklyn, designed by Irwin S. Chanin
Limestone
L2003.7.1-4, Lent by The City of New York

These sleek modernist versions of PEgasus, the flying horse of classical mythology, once flanked the entrances to the New York City Fire Service Pumping Station that still stands on Neptune Avenue between West Twenty-third and West Twenty-fourth Streets. The station boosted water pressure for fire fighting in outlying areas of Brooklyn. These four pairs of winged horses arise from stylized curving forms that suggest waves or clouds. Their compact double profiles reflect the Art Deco style of the industrial building whose entrances they once adorned. The streamlined design style was widely used in the 1920s and 1930s.

*

Dedicated in 1966, the Steinberg Family Sculpture Garden hosts a preeminent collection of terracotta, stone, and metal architectural elements salvaged from now-demolished structures throughout the metropolitan area and reinstalled outside the Brooklyn Museum's Norman M. Feinberg Entrance. Most of these remarkable objects date to the period between 1880 and 1910, recording a great era in the cultural, architectural, and industrial history of New York City.

The Brooklyn Museum, sitting at the border of Prospect Heights and Crown Heights near

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Pegasus Bookends

The art deco Pegasus sculptures on which these bookends are based are attributed to artist Harry Lowe and were created in the early 1930s for the Coney Island, Brooklyn, Pumping Station.

From the Brooklyn Museum sculpture garden.

Cast in stone with felt-cloth bottom. 6" x 5" x 2.25"

Pegasus Bookends x60542 **$100.00** ORDER

Location: 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11238-6052

Telephone: (718) 638-5000; TTY: (718) 399-8440

Admission: Suggested Contribution: $8; Students with Valid ID: $4; Adults 62 and over: $4; Members: Free; Children under 12: Free

Hours: Wednesday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Get detailed hours

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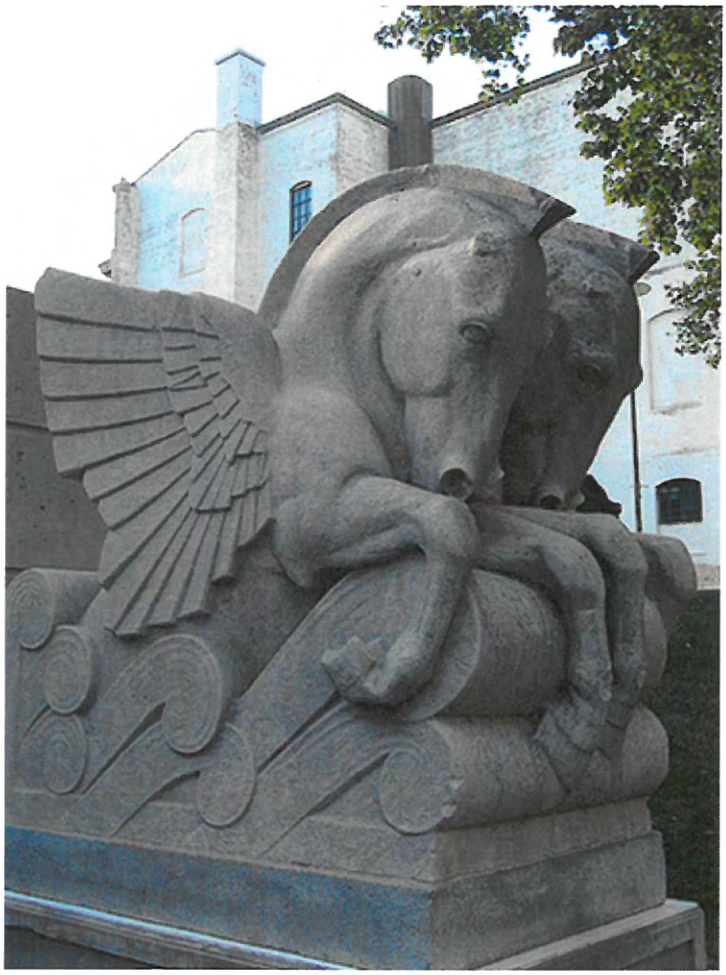

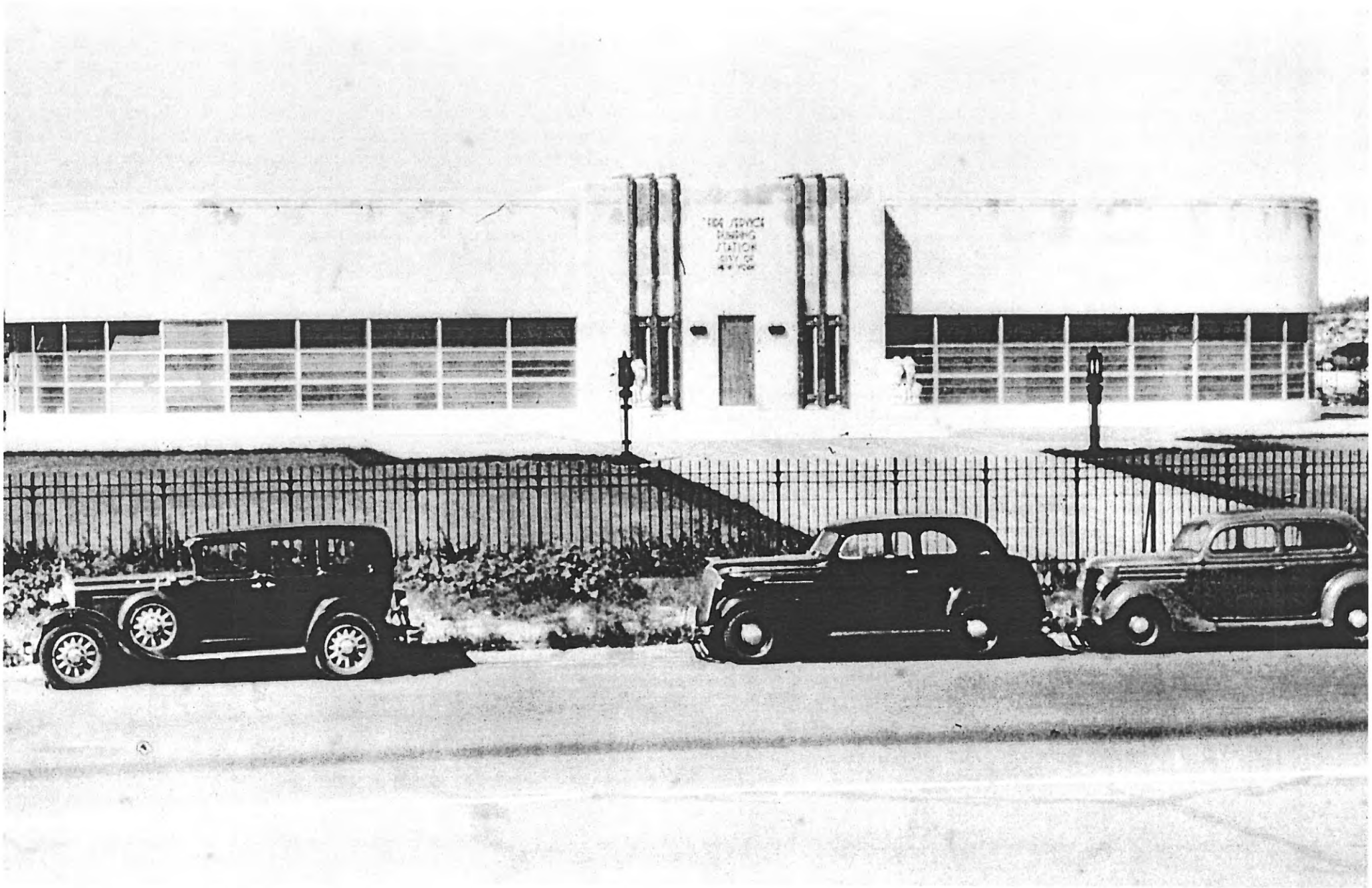

FIRE SERVICE
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CITY OF
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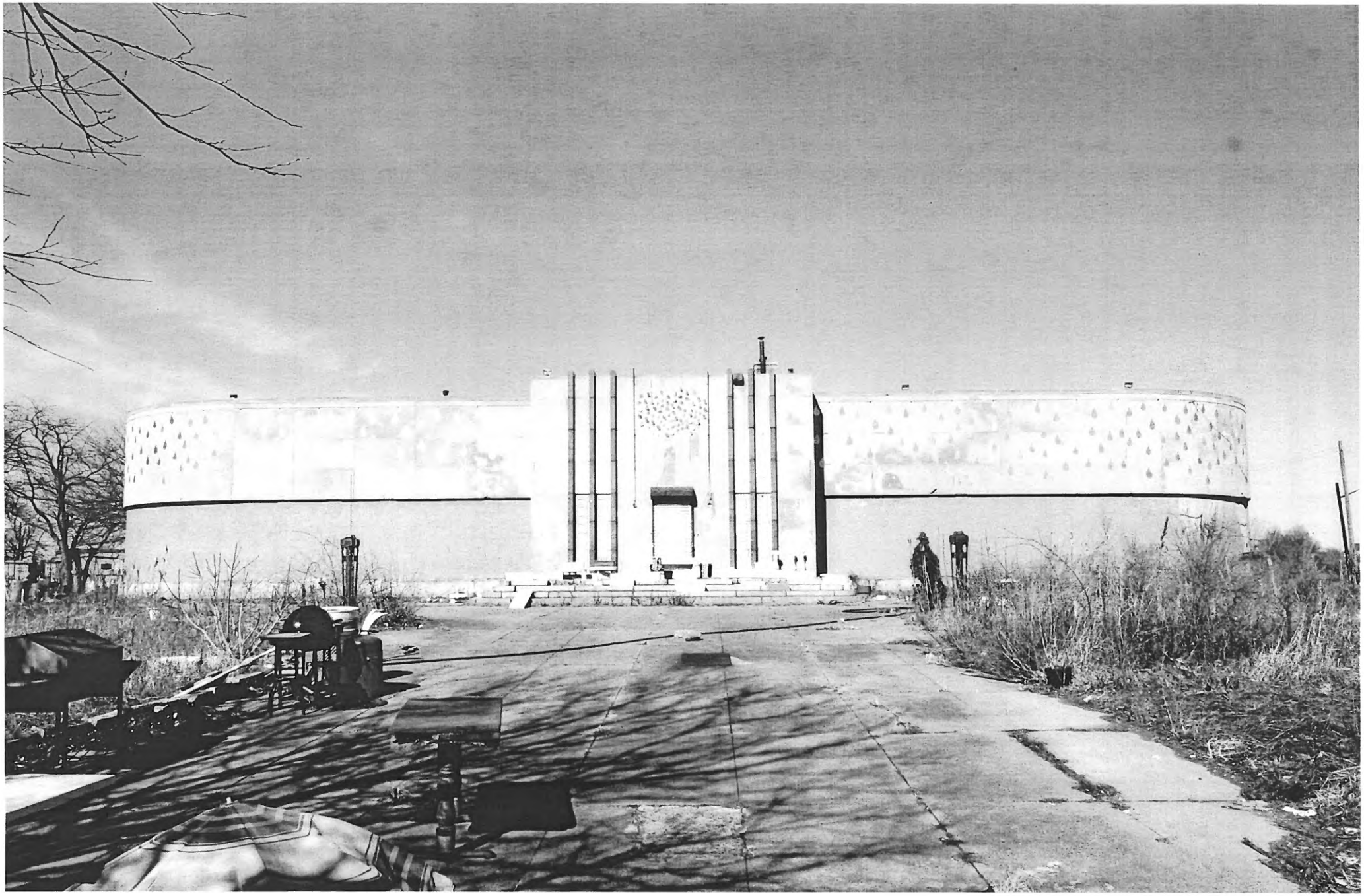

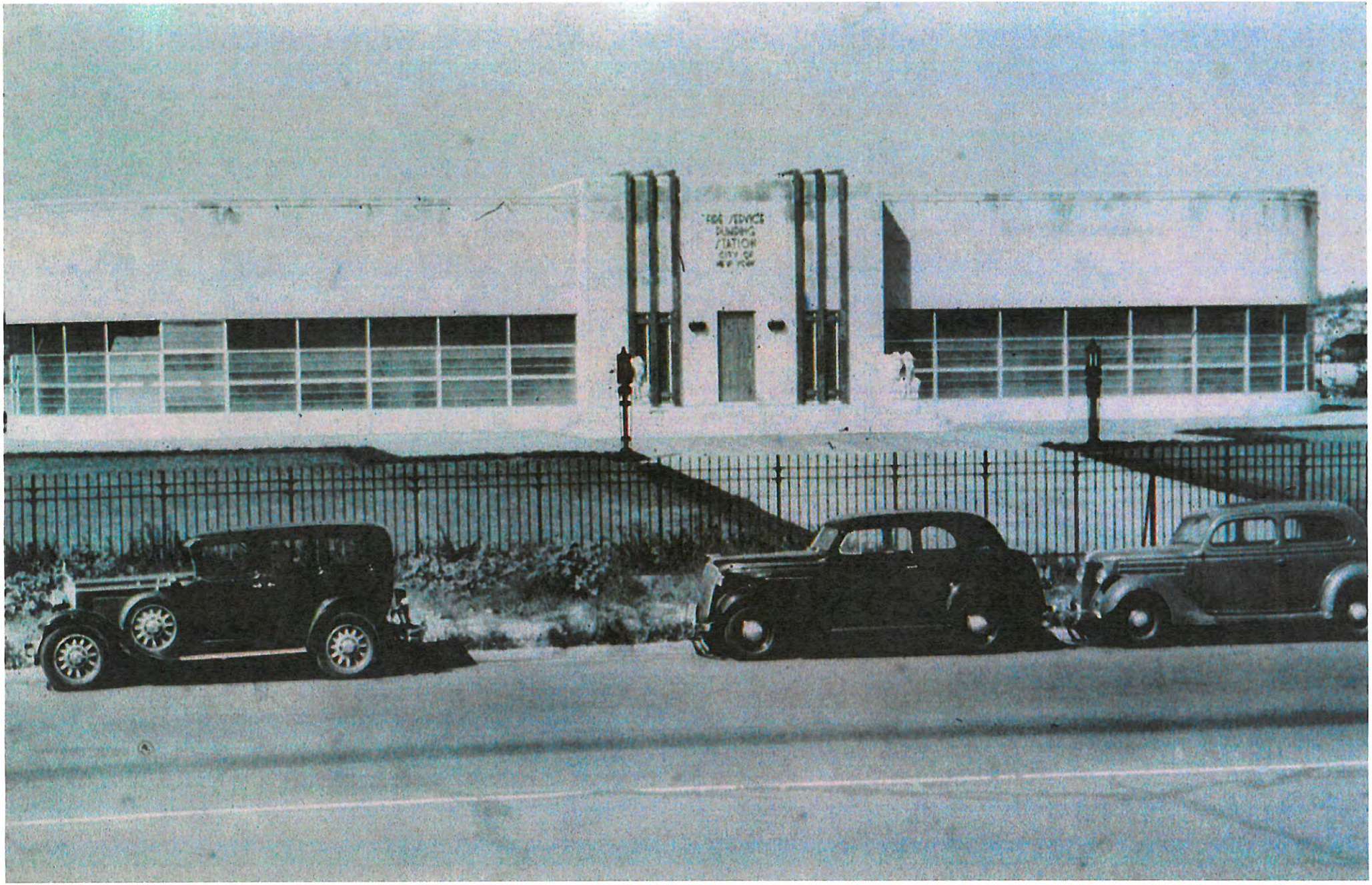

FIRE SERVICE
BUILDING
STATION
CITY OF
NEW YORK

The New York Times

October 7, 1990

Streetscapes: The Coney Island Pumping Station; Restabling the Noble Steeds

By CHRISTOPHER GRAY

LEAD: The entry in the 1989 edition of the American Institute of Architects Guide to New York City seemed like an epitaph. "The streamlined but decaying remnant was once guarded by two pairs of prancing steeds, now removed to the Brooklyn Museum sculpture garden. Too bad. Coney needed to keep this piece of architectural history.

The entry in the 1989 edition of the American Institute of Architects Guide to New York City seemed like an epitaph. "The streamlined but decaying remnant was once guarded by two pairs of prancing steeds, now removed to the Brooklyn Museum sculpture garden. Too bad. Coney needed to keep this piece of architectural history."

But the 1938 Coney Island pumping station, at West 23d Street and Neptune Avenue, is coming back to life - steeds and all - and will be returned to public use as a community center for homeless families. Work is to begin early next year. What was officially called the fire service pumping station was built to maintain constant water pressure for part of Coney Island where older mains and new construction jeopardized fire protection. The city selected the site, which backs up to Coney Island Creek on the north side of Neptune Avenue. To the east were low industrial buildings; to the west, Public School 239 - now Mark Twain High School - was being built.

Set in the center of a large grassy plot perhaps 200 feet square, the new building was in the Art Moderne style, a streamlined jewel box with curved ends and limestone panels with bands of industrial windows.

A central entrance pavilion had vertical black granite trim and a forecourt was flanked by limestone statues of winged horses in the modernistic style designed by Harry Lowe. Lettering, doors, grillwork and lighting fixtures were also Moderne in character, richer, more sculptural than the Art Deco style current in the late 20's and early 30's.

The interior was a large open well of glazed brick with pumping machinery sunk below grade and beams for large hoists to move equipment. In 1938, the magazine American Architect called the differences between the pumping station and other municipal architecture "indeed marked."

Also unusual was the architect - Irwin S. Chanin. By 1930, Chanin had established himself as a major designer-developer in New York City. He had built theaters, hotels and offices in the 1920's but made his name with the Century and Majestic apartment houses on Central Park West and the Art Deco Chanin Building on 42d Street, where he maintained his own luxurious offices.

But Chanin had evinced no interest in municipal work and was not on Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia's

1935 list of architects approved to design major city projects. It is possible he designed the pumping station simply for the construction contract (the builder was the Chanin Construction Company). But, according to Deborah Bershad, a spokesperson for the New York City Art Commission, this is the only project filed in his name with the commission and is apparently his only public building.

Changes in pumper design and local supply led the Fire Department to shut down the pumping station in the early 1970's. It was first noted as significant in the New York Landmarks Conservancy's public buildings inventory of 1977 and the nonprofit group began efforts to have it listed on the National Register. By 1980, when the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a hearing on the building, the lot was overgrown and windows were broken.

The city supported the proposed designation but it was never actually made, and around that time the horse sculptures were vandalized, their ears broken off. Charles Savage, then director of the Landmarks Commission's architectural salvage program, arranged for the sculptures to be lent to the Brooklyn Museum's Freda Schiff Warburg Sculpture Garden.

The entry in the A.I.A. Guide, by Norval White and Elliot Willensky, seemed like the last anyone would hear of the deteriorating building, which now is surrounded - almost engulfed - by eggplant, tomatoes, cabbages, corn and other produce cultivated in an ad hoc way by neighborhood residents; its embankment on the creek is a favorite fishing spot.

BUT this year the city budgeted $23 million to, in part, revive the structure. Designs by Skidmore Ownings & Merrill call for the restored pumping station to connect two three-story wings of transitional housing for homeless families, making an H-plan. The 98 families will use the old pumping station, restored on the outside but rebuilt on the inside, for social services, day care, a health clinic and a community room.

Work will ultimately include the return of the sculptures from the Brooklyn Museum. Barbara Millstein, curator of the Sculpture Garden, is happy that they will be returned to their original positions but is also reluctant to part with them.

"Kids get up and sit on them" she said. "They're very much loved and picknicked around. We'll be dreadfully sorry to see them go."

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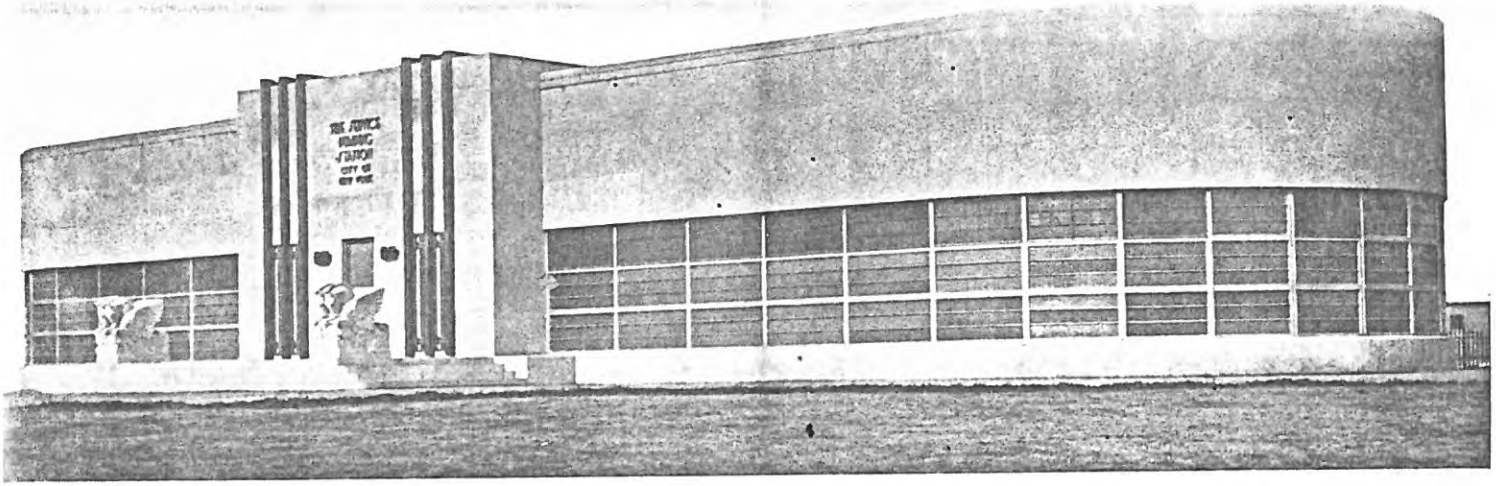


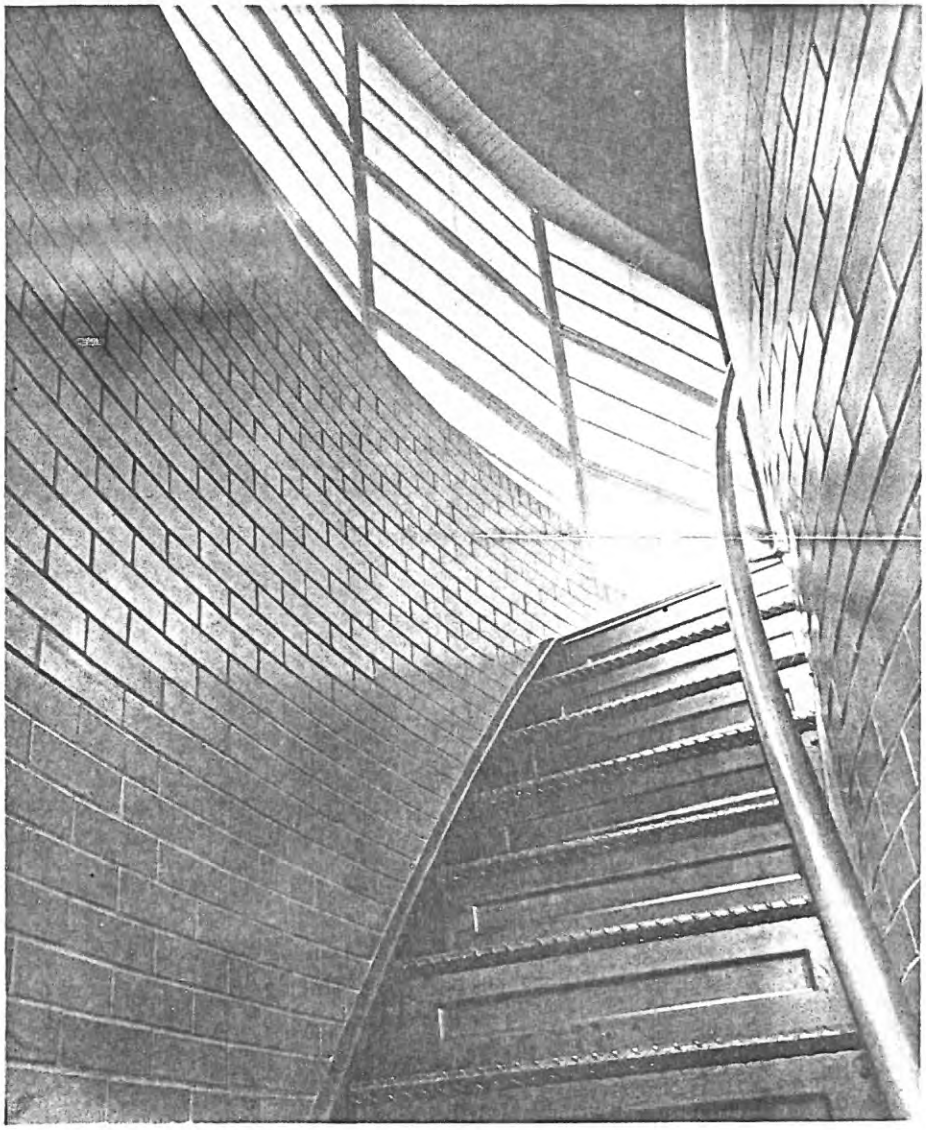
PHOTOS: SCHNALL

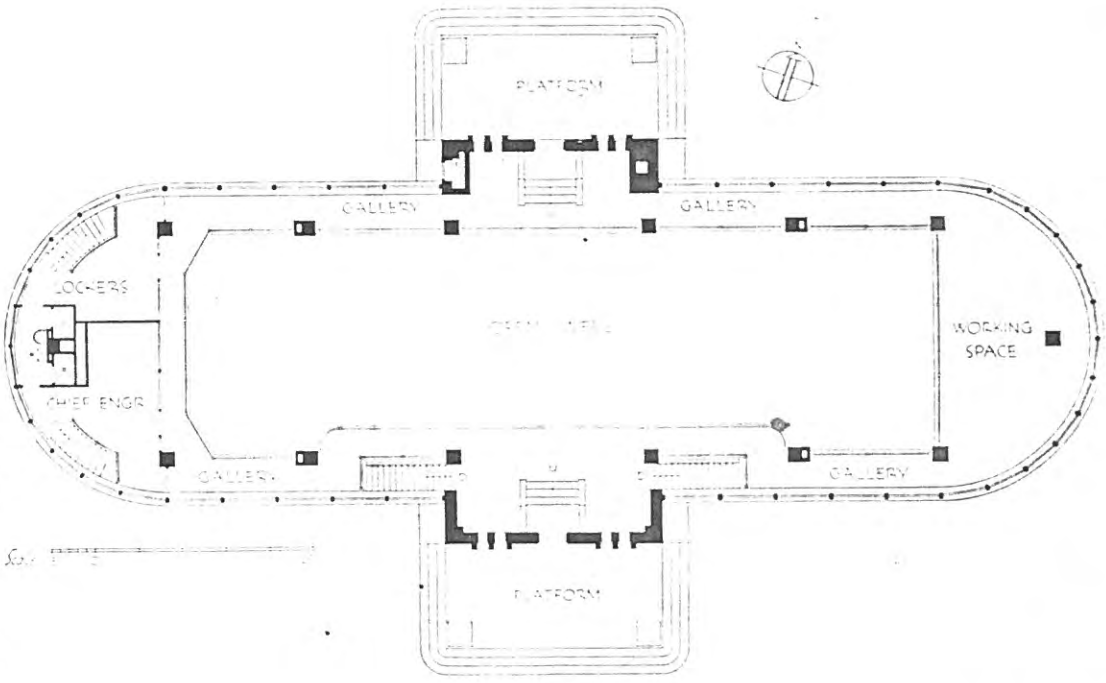
PUMPING STATION, NEW YORK CITY

RWIN S. CHANIN, ARCHITECT

This high-pressure water pumping station was planned to maintain constant pressure for a portion of Coney Island. Designed for the City of New York, the comparison, architecturally, of this structure with the usual municipal plant is indeed marked, although the sculptures seem a bit affected and contribute little to the appearance of the building. The unusually deep band of masonry above the windows was dictated by the utilitarian nature of the building and shelters massive overhead beams built to support cranes capable of supporting and moving entire pumping units

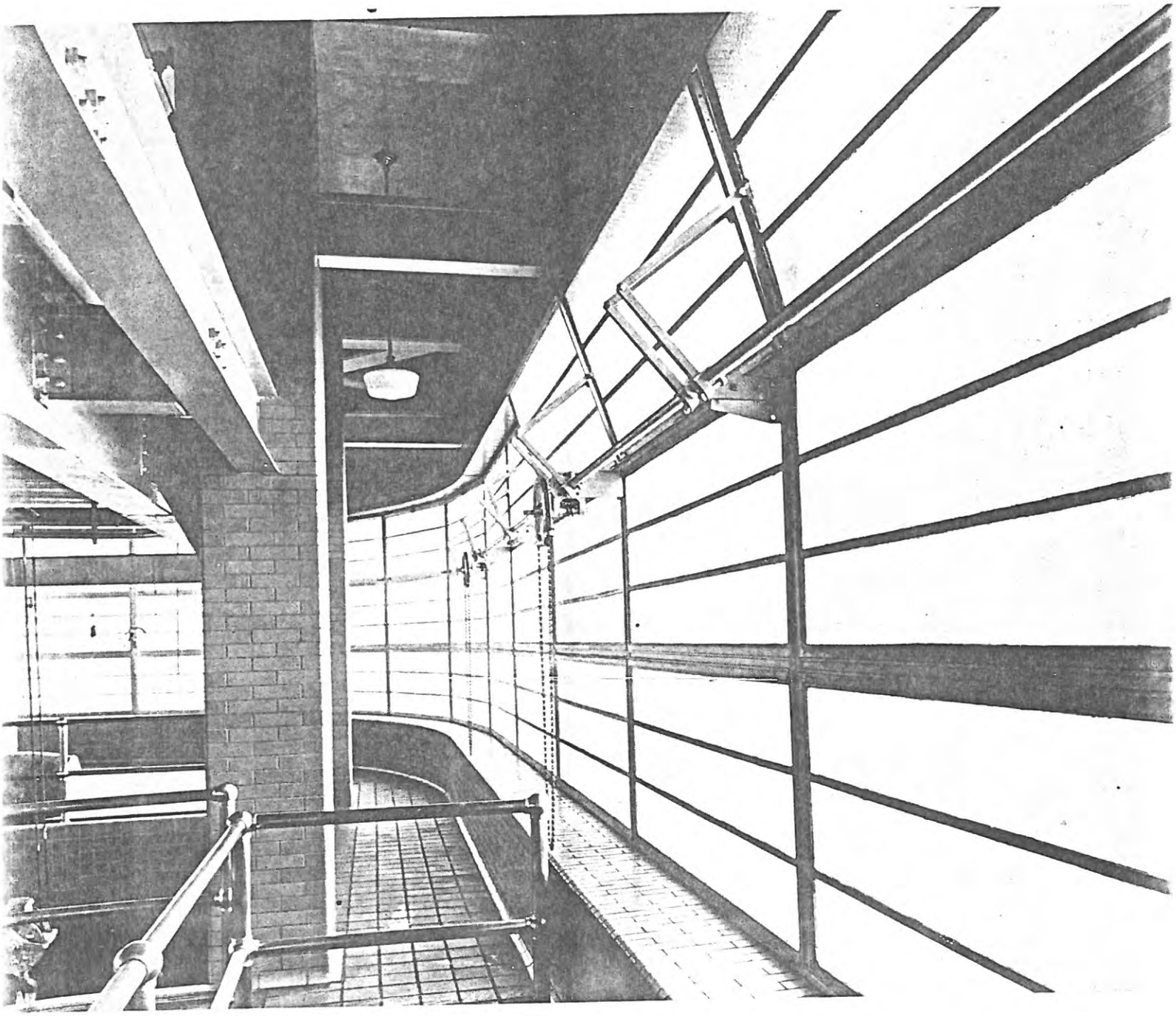
PUMPING STATION, NEW YORK
IRWIN S. CHANIN, ARCHITECT

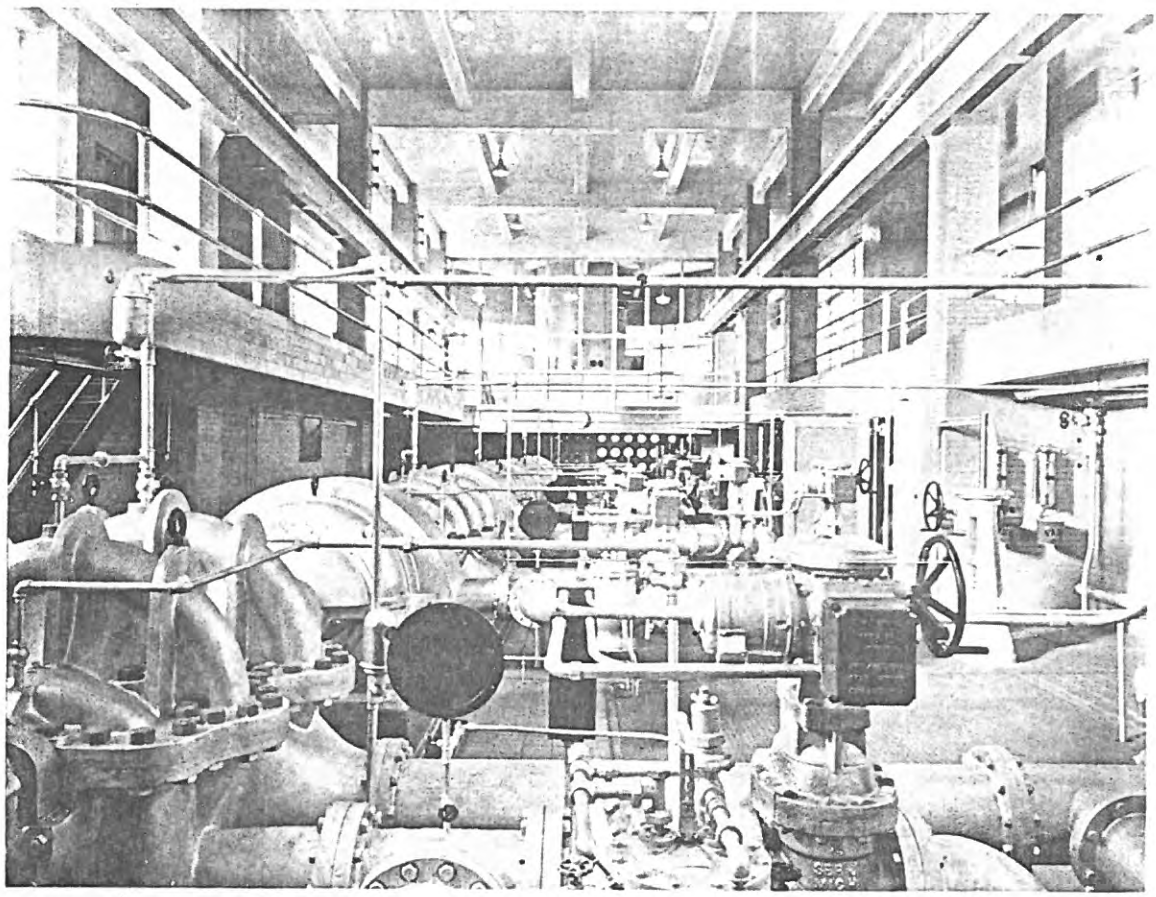


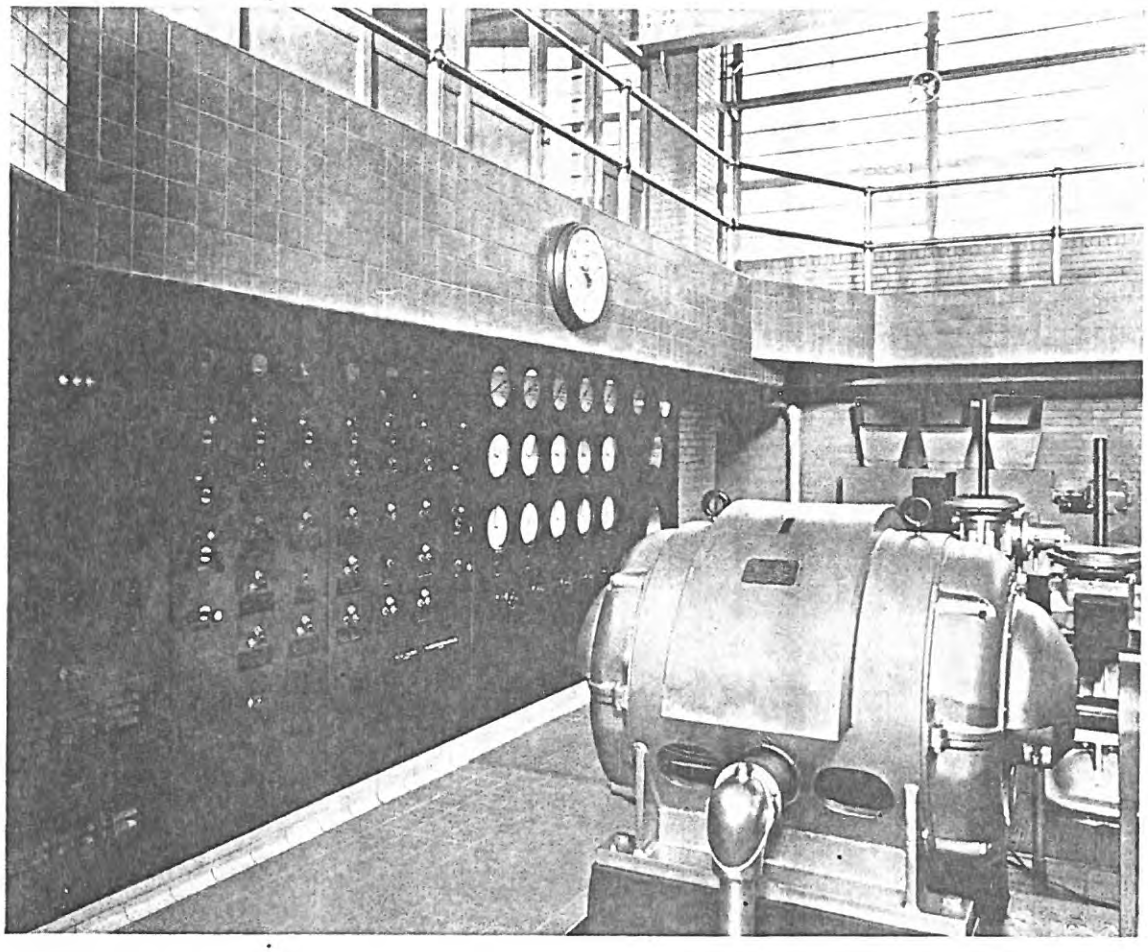


The ends of the building were purposely made semi-circular to aid in the diffusion of natural light. The fact that the resulting lines add to the general interest of the building is entirely incidental. Most interior finish is of warm colored glazed brick and tile

One of the most important problems of the architects was to provide the greatest possible amount of natural light for a pumping floor situated about 12 feet below ground level, at the same time maintaining daylight on a mezzanine floor located approximately at grade. Prismatic glass employed in the entire perimeter of the building was chosen for this function. Only the top unit of the steel windows can be opened; the lower two being fixed







Above is a general view of the pump space showing the continuous girder tracks that support the overhead crane; below is the control gauge board

PUMPING STATION
IRWIN S. CHANIN
ARCHITECT

PUMPING STATION BEGUN
New York Times (1857-Current file); Mar 31, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2005)
pg. 7

PUMPING STATION BEGUN

Ingersoll and Davidson Break Ground for Coney Island Plant.

Borough President Ingersoll of Brooklyn and Commissioner Maurice P. Davidson of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity officiated at ground-breaking exercises yesterday for the new $500,000 high-pressure fire pumping station to be erected at West Twenty-third Street and Neptune Avenue, Coney Island. The station, a PWA project, will replace the present station at West Twelfth Street and Neptune Avenue and will have three times its capacity.

Mr. Davidson recalled the $2,000,000 fire that swept the west end of Coney Island in 1934 and said the new station would help reduce the possibility of such a fire in the future. Mr. Ingersoll also praised the project and complimented the police and Department of Sanitation for the clean appearance of the resort.

Other speakers included Deputy Commissioner John E. Eastmond of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity; Joseph Goodman, acting chief engineer of the department, and Colonel Oliver F. Allen, PWA engineer-examiner.

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RFC PLANS TO ACQUIRE $103,099,000 BONDS
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jul 10, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2005)
pg. 30

RFC PLANS TO ACQUIRE $103,099,000 BONDS

Municipal Issues, $84,949,000 of This City, to Free PWA Funds for New Projects.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has confirmed to the Public Works Administration a commitment to buy $103,099,000 face value of municipal bonds of which $84,949,000 are New York City bonds, it was revealed today.

However, Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the RFC, said he never expected to receive the bonds, explaining that he had committed himself to buy them in order to free a like amount of PWA funds for new projects, these funds having been set aside for the projects from which the bonds were pledged.

A list of the bonds follows:

Buffalo (N. Y.) Sewer Authority.	$5,250,000
Detroit sewage disposal system..	9,900,000
New York City Tunnel Authority.	47,130,000
Triborough Bridge Authority....	11,700,000
Eleven hospital projects, total...	6,464,000
Nine public school projects, total	7,200,000
Incinerator construction	1,740,000
Biological laboratory 260,000,000	
Bronx County jail construction..	1,077,000
Coney Island high-pressure pumping station	318,000
Washington Avenue Bridge.....	173,000
Rapid Transit reconstruction....	261,000
Sheepshead Bay Improvement...	286,000
Various health centers.....	616,000
Municipal Building, Manhattan, elevator reconstruction	921,000
Rapid Transit subway.....	6,505,000

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J. J. Griffith.....	263	Thomas McCartin.	165
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E. J. Link	273		

Company commanders shall assign the the above-named members to the group and platoon numbers indicated above their names during the period of instruction.

Name Change

The name of Fireman 1st Grade John J. Keller, Hook and Ladder 132, is hereby changed on the records of this department to read Joseph J. Keller.

Notice

The new Coney Island high pressure fire service station, located at West 23d Street and Neptune Avenue, Coney Island, Brooklyn, is now in service. It will supply water to the high pressure hydrants in the same area and in the same manner as did the old high pressure pumping station.

This new station is equipped with five electrically driven centrifugal pumps, each capable of delivering 4,000 gallons per minute at 125 pounds pressure, this delivery being reduced as the pressure is increased, untti at 225 pounds pressure each pump will deliver approximately 2,700 gallons per minute.

Leaves

Capt. John J. Dowling, Engine 5, for fifteen hours.

Lt. Dennis P. Travers, H. & L. 168, for six hours.

"Fire Department"
Aug 25, 1937
p 10

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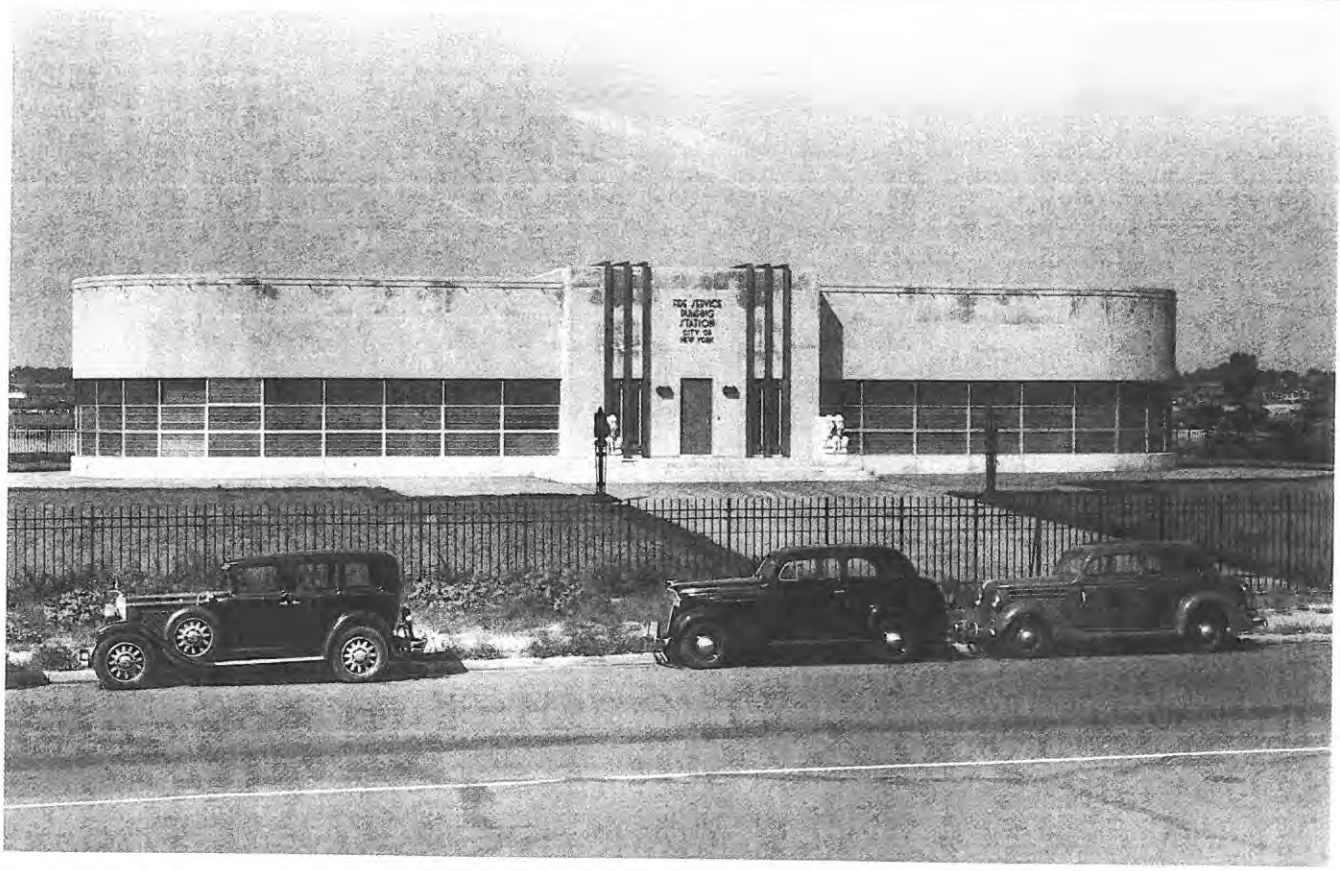


The building's designer, Dennis J. van der Bent of McKim, Mead & White, succeeded in combining most of these in a single, acoustically sophisticated room.[32] The facade echoed the genteel Georgian style of Paul R. Allen and Henry Creighton Ingalls's 1918 Henry Miller Theater located diagonally across the street,[33] but its associations with the early republic also served to vividly symbolize the spirit of democratic debate. A large stone panel on the front of the building bore the apt inscription: "You Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free."

In 1928 Tammany Hall set out to prove that it could at least appear as respectable as the sponsors of Town Hall by building a new Georgian headquarters at the southeast corner of Union Square East and Seventeenth Street. "It is well that the Big Chiefs and their tribesmen should hark back to the Colonial tradition," T-Square wrote, "but somehow one does not associate them with anything so chaste and simple."[34] The new Tammany Hall contained an assembly room for 1,200, a number of smaller committee and meeting rooms, and offices. Designed by Thompson, Holmes & Converse in association with Charles B. Meyers, it was sheathed in limestone and a special, large red brick—ironically made in England—to conform to the type used at Monticello by Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic party. The elevations, however, resembled a fragment of Sir William Chambers's Somerset House in London—particularly in its recessed Doric portico overlooking Union Square.

Civic Buildings in the Outer Boroughs

Throughout the interwar years, the city's skyrocketing population increasingly migrated to the outer boroughs and the suburbs beyond. While the population of Manhattan decreased by nearly 400,000 between 1920 and 1940, the number of people living in Brooklyn increased by over 30 percent, and the population of Queens leaped from approximately 469,000 in 1920 to over 1,297,000 in 1940—an increase of more than 170 percent. The dramatic growth of the outer boroughs was reflected in the increasing decentralization of city government and a growing sense that each borough needed a distinct civic identity.

Staten Island (the borough of Richmond), the least accessible and consequently the most rural of the outer boroughs, ironically led the way toward architectural selfhood. When Staten Island was annexed by New York in 1898, the county seat was transferred from Richmondtown, which was virtually in the center of the island, to Saint George, at its northern tip, where a new group of government buildings was erected on the hills facing Manhattan. The first of these was a Modern French Borough Hall designed in 1906 by Carrère & Hastings,[35] who also designed the adjacent Richmond County Courthouse, with its pedimented temple portico overlooking the harbor, in 1913–19.[36] In 1918 Robert W. Gardner contributed a Georgian building for the Staten Island Museum at 75 Stuyvesant Place on the northeast corner of Wall Street.[37] These were joined by Sibley & Fetherston's 1930

Above: CONEY ISLAND HIGH PRESSURE PUMPING STATION, 2301 Neptune Avenue at West Twenty-third Street, Brooklyn. Irwin S. Chanin, 1937. CHANIN

Top right: FLUSHING POST OFFICE, southeast corner of Main Street and Flushing Avenue, Flushing, Queens. Dwight James Baum and William W. Knowles, 1932. View from the northwest. Gottscho-Schleisner. MCNY

Bottom right: BRONX CENTRAL ANNEX OF U. S. POST OFFICE, 558 Grand Concourse, northeast corner of 149th Street, Mott Haven, the Bronx. Thomas Harlan Ellett, 1934–37. View from the northwest. Gottscho-Schleisner. MCNY

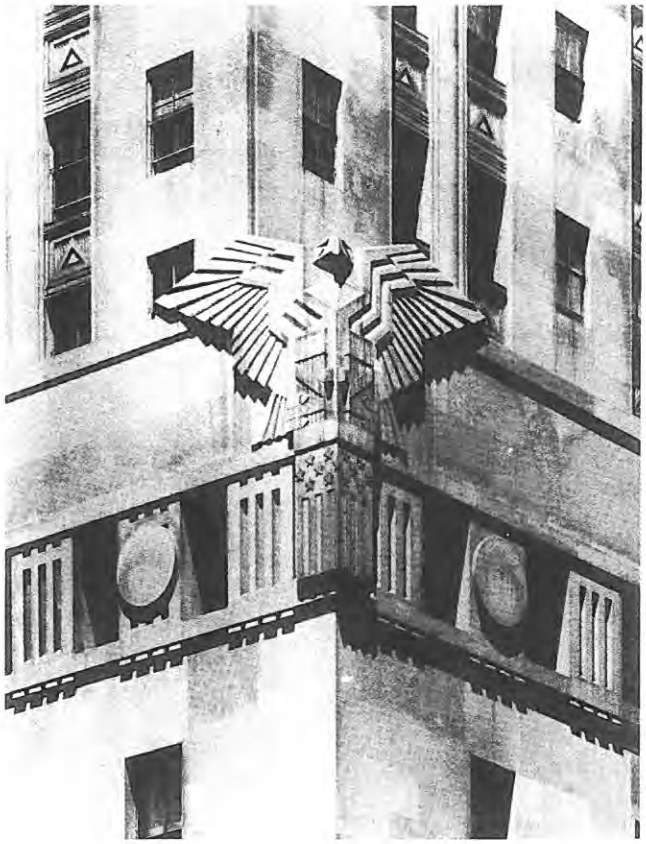
similar vocabulary, but unfortunately it was rather far from the Bronx County Building, at River Avenue and 151st Street.[48] The jail was a six-story, 260-foot-long slab with small pavilions at each end and an eight-story central tower. Recreational facilities were concealed behind a high parapet on the roof. Its light brick facades contrasted with the dark slots of vertical windows. Otherwise, the building's articulation was limited to the slightest of Classical moldings around the entrances and, at the top of the tower, a frieze and a truncated stepped pyramid.

In 1933 McKim, Mead & White completed the Bronx Grit Chamber at 158 Bruckner Boulevard.[49] One of the city's most authoritative essays in Classicism, its imposing facade, containing a central monumentally scaled arch surrounded by glass and culminating in a broken pediment, was as vital as Stanford White's design for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company's power plant had been a generation earlier. Completed four years after its design, the architecture of the city's first facility for treating sewage was a last hurrah for the civicism of the American Renaissance that found a sense of grandeur and authority to be appropriate to every municipal building, no matter what its function.

In contrast, Irwin S. Chanin's 1937 design for the Coney Island High Pressure Pumping Station at 2301 Neptune Avenue, between West Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets, abandoned the grand manner in favor of a more forthright expression of its industrial nature.[50] Chanin's design traded on the popular image of stylistic Modernism as a direct reflection of advanced technology and efficiency. On another level, the building's stylistic shift was sure evidence of the collapse of the civic vision of the American Renaissance and its replacement by values evolved for commercial building. The low, elongated building incorporated a three-tier band of windows that spanned the building's perimeter and was interrupted only by a centrally located projection—containing a principal entrance—on each of the long facades. On either side of the main entrance, three vertical bands of dark stone contrasted with the facade's light masonry and ran the height of the building, joining on the roof. Above the windows, a deep masonry band concealed the massive beams from which suspended cranes supported heavy machinery. The building was semicircular at each end, which strongly contributed to its stylishly streamlined appearance. Curiously, the editors of *American Architect* wrote, "The ends of the building were purposely made semi-circular to aid in the diffusion of natural light. The fact that the resulting lines add to the general interest of the building is entirely incidental." Sculpted depictions of winged horses, rendered in a Modern Classical style, struck the journal as "a bit affected," and as contributing "little to the appearance of the building."[51] While the sculptures were perhaps intended to allude to the traditional architectural vocabulary most often employed in civic buildings, they did not significantly alter the prevailing impression that the building was a piece of industrial engineering or at the very least, industrial design.

Federal Presence

The federal government commissioned many of the period's most distinguished civic buildings. This was particularly true during the Depression, when the Public Works Authority set out to stimulate the economy through the construction of post offices, which, in addition to performing customary functions, provided banking services and issued citizenship papers. As exemplars of the federal government's role in the common man's daily life, the post offices were not only powerful symbols of democracy but also offered a focus for many featureless neighborhoods. With widespread economic hardship threatening to give rise to social turmoil, the Depression-era post offices offered an idealized American past to bolster the government's aim of reassuring a volatile public that traditional institutions and values remained viable.



FEDERAL BUILDING, West Broadway, Church, Vesey, and Barclay streets. Cross & Cross with Pennington, Lewis & Mills, 1933–35. Detail of sculpture by C. Paul Jennewein. Wurts. MCNY

The strong association in the public imagination of the Georgian mode with a heroic era in American history, and with prosperity and private ownership, made it the ideal style for the facilities built in the suburban-scale residential neighborhoods of the outer boroughs. Dwight James Baum and William W. Knowles's 1932 Flushing Post Office, located on the corner of Main Street and Sanford Avenue in Queens, was the most imposing of the Georgian-style post offices.[52] A two-story building in "Jeffersonian-sized" brick and Vermont white marble, its principal feature was an Ionic-columned, pedimented portico in the center of a symmetrically arranged principal facade that was reached by a flight of steps. Carved eagles were placed on either side of the pediment and a circular emblem decorated the tympanum. Inside, a small vestibule opened onto a green- and cream-colored marble lobby crowned by a gently vaulted green plaster ceiling with moldings accented in gold. A 220-square-foot mural by Vincent Adriente, depicting the history of Long Island—concentrating on the Flushing area—ran along the perimeter of the room.

FHR-6-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Coney Island Fire Station/Pumping Station

and or common

2. Location

street & number 2301 Neptune Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Brooklyn ___ vicinity of congressional district

state New York code county Kings code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	_X_ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Department of General Services, James Capalino, Commissioner

street & number Municipal Building - 1 Centre Street

city, town New York ___ vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kings County Office of the City Register

street & number Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon Street

city, town Brooklyn state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fire-Pumping Station, located at 2301 Neptune Avenue, is surrounded on three sides by West 23rd Street and Marginal and Neptune Avenue. Although now overgrown and uncared for, the lot was once symmetrically planted with ground vines and privet hedges. Today scattered buildings, mostly industrial in use, are located in the adjacent area.

Three original cement walks lead to the building from the roads. The walks continue around the structure, echoing its shape. Granite steps meet the walks at the entrances and are flanked by unusual horse-like sculpture.

The station, a one-story Art Moderne structure, is built of smooth materials and employs curving lines, typical of its style. The structure is elliptical in shape and has identical facade and rear elevations. Both are faced in limestone and rise above a granite base and have projecting porticos with center metal doorways. To either side of the doors are side lights with grillwork made of a combination of nickel and silver. These side lights are divided by three granite slabs that run the full height of the building. Above the doors are raised metal letters in the Art Deco mode: Fire Station/ Pumping Station/City of New York.

Continuous prismatic glass windows with granite sills and steel surround run along the main body of the building. These windows are grouped in bands of three; however only the top windows are operable. On the west elevation, the windows are hinged, so the wall can be dismantled and equipment easily transported.

The roof is slag, hidden behind a parapet wall with limestone coping and copper flashing. On the west and east elevations a band of faced brick is located below the limestone coping.

The interior of the station consists of two floors: a basement and main floor with gallery. The basement contains ten rooms including: a general pump room, storage, boiler, oil storage, tool storage, oil tank, oil, circuit breaker and transmitter rooms. All rooms, except for the oil tank room, which is cement, have enamel brick walls, concrete ceilings and hydraulic tile floors.

The main floor consists of a gallery that runs along the edge of the building overlooking a center well. This level contains hydraulic tile floors, enamelled brick walls and painted concrete ceilings. Surrounding the well are metal pipe railings with continuous tile fascia with curbs at their base. The railing at the western end is removable like the windows to help ease the movement of machinery. This section also contains a semi-circular work area. Above the well are girder tracks and metal beams used to support cranes for moving pumping units.

The eastern end of the station contains three rooms: an engineer's office with a glass and steel wall overlooking the gallery, rest rooms and a locker room. Staircases are located in both the engineer's office and locker room and are placed along the curving exterior wall. Other stairways are located on either side of the main entranceway.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1938 **Builder/Architect** Irwin S. Chanin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Coney Island High Pressure Water Pumping Station, planned to maintain constant water pressure for a portion of Coney Island, is an excellent example of the Art Moderne Style of architecture. The structure, praised in its day as being a creative alternative to the classical-designed municipal building, was designed by Irwin S. Chanin, a local New York architect. Chanin is best known for his designs of several apartment buildings, such as the Majesty and Century Apartments located on Central Park West in New York City. Chanin's design of the Coney Island Pumping Station marks a change from his large sky-scraper style to a low one-story design and from a richly ornamented Art Deco mode to one of the functional severity of the Art Moderne style.

The Coney Island Pumping Station, considered modern architecture in its time, is unlike most public buildings which imitate classical models. The Pumping Station illustrates the concern of many fashionable architects of the late 1930's--the creation of a new style of streamlined architecture. During this decade, architects were affected by the overwhelming realization that the machine and industry had become increasingly dominant.[1] A response of the architects was to design buildings which took on a machine aesthetic. Unlike earlier structures of Chanin's and other architects of the period, the buildings employed elements of the International Style. Unlike earlier buildings in the Art Deco style, buildings with severe ornamentation, ordered neo-classical forms, and almost no color were designed. Elements such as a horizontal emphasis in design and an occasional rounded or streamlined corner were also aspects of the Art Moderne. According to Cervin Robinson, author of Skyscraper Style: Art Deco, the austerity and machine imagery of the later Art Deco buildings, with their greyer, more impersonal look, is typical of the Depression Era and symbolized the mood of the country.[2]

The Pumping Station is an excellent exmple of the late Art Deco or Art Moderne style, which has been described by Martin Grief as "Depression Moderne."[3] Its low plan with rounded corners, sparse decor, rich materials and lozenge plan are common to other structures built in the style. A number of new machine-made materials, including nickel-silver and prismatic glass were utilized to a great extent at the Pumping Station. In the years before World War II, the potential of high technology was held in great esteem by architects who often chose to employ the latest materials in Art Moderne buildings. The Pumping Station is entirely representative of the 1930's Art Moderne and yet it is one of the few buildings of its kind built in America. In general, Art Moderne stylistic elements are found in urban skyscrapers, or in the commercial areas of small towns. The Coney Island Fire/Pumping Station, standing alone on its site on Neptune Avenue, is unique--it is not only important as a superb example of the Art Moderne, but as one of the few examples of municipally owned pumping stations designed in the Art Moderne style.

(Footnotes on Continuation Sheet.)

Footnotes.

[1]Cervin Robinson, Skyscraper Style: Art Deco.
(New York: Oxford University Press, 1975), p.66.

[2]Ibid., p.71.

[3]Martin Grief, Depression Modern.
(New York: Universe Books, 1975).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cheney, Sheldon. The New World Architecture. New York: Longmans, Green and Company, 1930.

"Coney Island Pumping Station, New York City", American Architect and Architecture. January 1938.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached map.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael S. May, Graduate Research Asst./Carol Clark, Associate Director

organization New York Landmarks Conservancy date August 1980

street & number 11 Broadway telephone (212) 425-4085

city or town New York state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

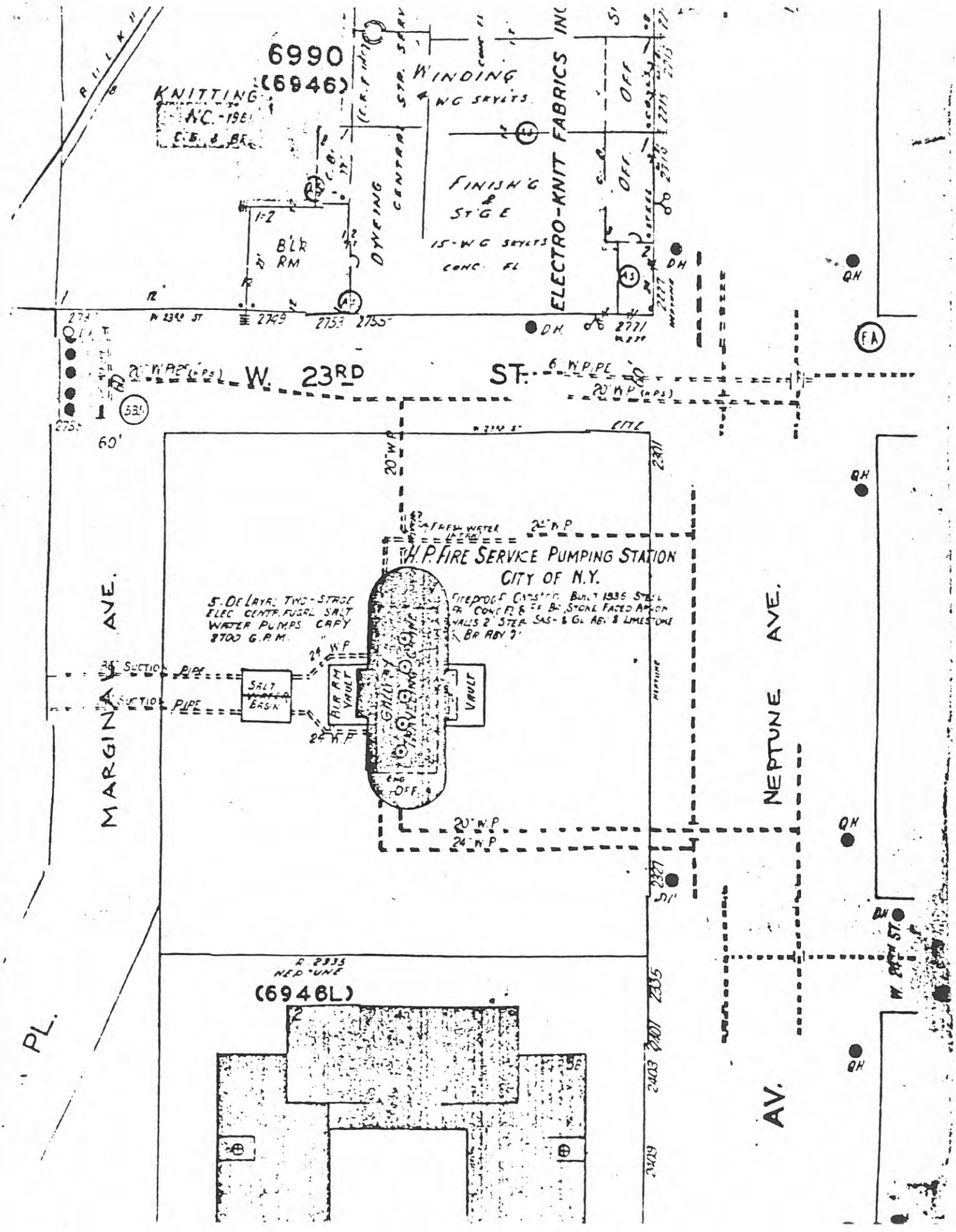
Chief of Registration

Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Giedion, Sigfried. Mechanization Takes Command.
New York: Oxford University Press, 1948.

Grief, Martin. Depression Modern.
New York: Universe Books, 1975.

Robinson, Cervin. Skyscraper Style: Art Deco.
New York: Oxford University Press, 1975.


6990
(6946)
KNITTING
WINDING
WG SKYLTS
DYEING
CENTRAL STR. SERV
FINISH'G & ST'G E
15-WG SKYLTS
CONC. FL
ELECTRO-KNIT FABRICS INC
OFF
OFF
BLR RM
W. 23RD ST.
6" W.P. PIPE
20" W.P. (HPS)
60'
20" W.P.
24" W.P.
H.P. FIRE SERVICE PUMPING STATION
CITY OF N.Y.
5-DE LAVAL TWO-STAGE ELEC. CENTRIFUGAL SALT WATER PUMPS CAPY 8700 G.P.M.
SUCTION PIPE
SALT WATER BASIN
BLR RM VAULT
GALLERY
VAULT
OFF
MARGINAL AVE.
NEPTUNE AVE.
AV.
PL.
(6946L)
R 2335 NEPTUNE
QH
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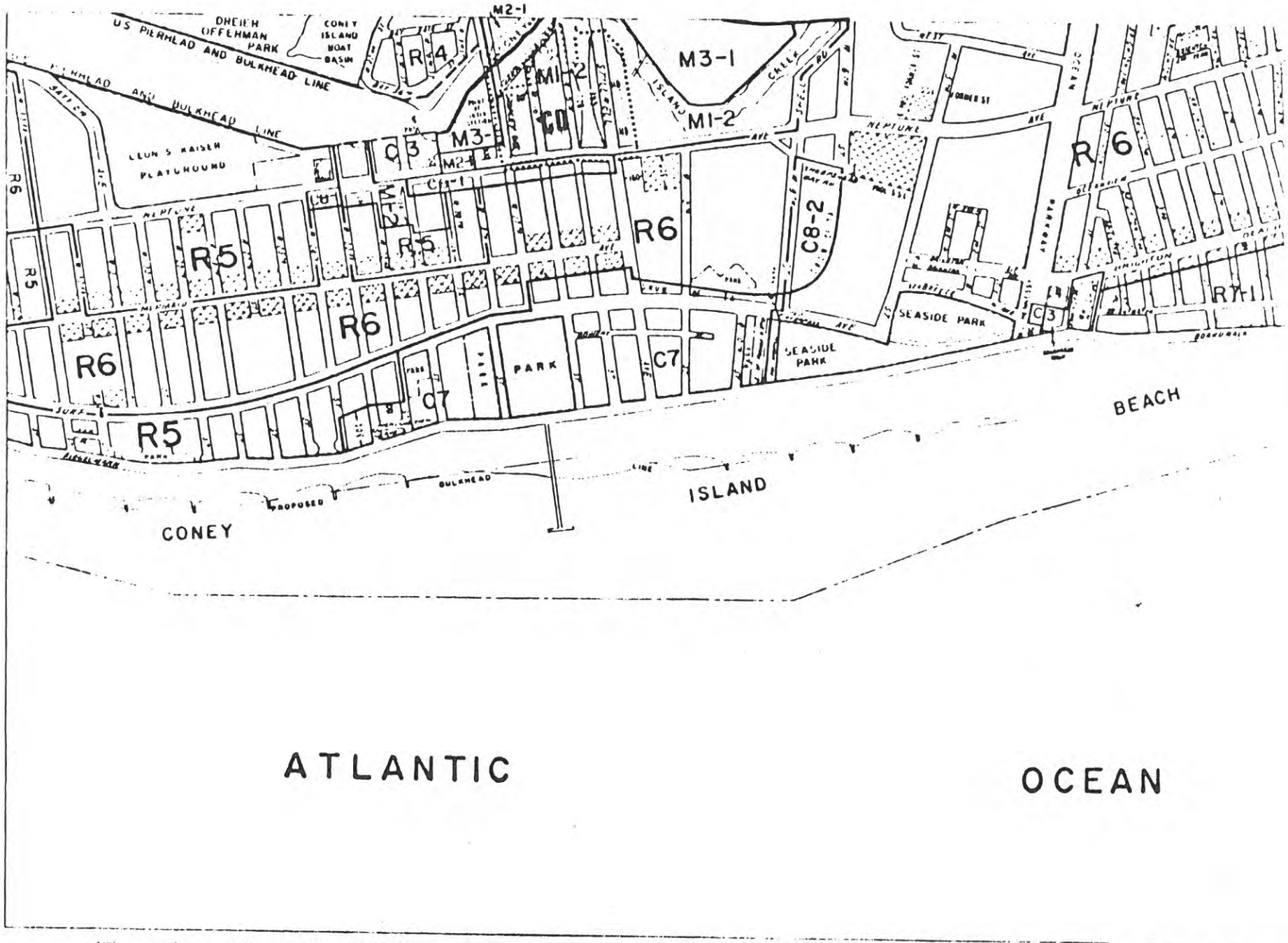

DREIER OFFERMAN PARK
CONEY ISLAND BOAT BASIN
US PIERHEAD AND BULKHEAD LINE
LEON S KAISER PLAYGROUND
M2-1
R4
M1-2
M3-1
M1-2
C3
M3-
M2-1
C8-1
M1-2
R5
R6
R5
R6
R6
R5
C8-2
R6
R7-1
C3
SEASIDE PARK
SEASIDE PARK
PARK
C7
C7
BEACH
ISLAND
CONEY
PROPOSED
BULKHEAD
LINE
ATLANTIC
OCEAN
600 0 600 1200 1800 FEET
C1 1
C1 2
C1 3
C1 4
C1 5
C2 1

PUMPING STATION BEGUN
New York Times (1857-Current file): Mar 31, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2005)
pg. 7

PUMPING STATION BEGUN

Ingersoll and Davidson Break Ground for Coney Island Plant.

Borough President Ingersoll of Brooklyn and Commissioner Maurice P. Davidson of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity officiated at ground-breaking exercises yesterday for the new $500,000 high-pressure fire pumping station to be erected at West Twenty-third Street and Neptune Avenue, Coney Island. The station, a PWA project, will replace the present station at West Twelfth Street and Neptune Avenue and will have three times its capacity.

Mr. Davidson recalled the $2,000,000 fire that swept the west end of Coney Island in 1934 and said the new station would help reduce the possibility of such a fire in the future. Mr. Ingersoll also praised the project and complimented the police and Department of Sanitation for the clean appearance of the resort.

Other speakers included Deputy Commissioner John E. Eastmond of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity; Joseph Goodman, acting chief engineer of the department, and Colonel Oliver F. Allen, PWA engineer-examiner.

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RFC PLANS TO ACQUIRE $103,099,000 BONDS
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jul 10, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2005)
pg. 30

RFC PLANS TO ACQUIRE $103,099,000 BONDS

Municipal Issues, $84,949,000 of This City, to Free PWA Funds for New Projects.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has confirmed to the Public Works Administration a commitment to buy $103,099,000 face value of municipal bonds of which $84,949,000 are New York City bonds, it was revealed today.

However, Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the RFC, said he never expected to receive the bonds, explaining that he had committed himself to buy them in order to free a like amount of PWA funds for new projects, these funds having been set aside for the projects from which the bonds were pledged.

A list of the bonds follows:

Buffalo (N. Y.) Sewer Authority.	$8,250,000
Detroit sewage disposal system..	9,900,000
New York City Tunnel Authority.	47,130,000
Triborough Bridge Authority....	11,700,000
Eleven hospital projects, total...	6,464,000
Nine public school projects, total	7,200,000
Incinerator construction	1,740,000
Biological laboratory	260,000,000
Bronx County jail construction..	1,077,000
Coney Island high-pressure pumping station	316,000
Washington Avenue Bridge.....	173,000
Rapid Transit reconstruction....	261,000
Sheepshead Bay Improvement...	286,000
Various health centers.....	616,000
Municipal Building, Manhattan, elevator reconstruction	921,000
Rapid Transit subway.....	6,805,000

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J. C. Hicks.....	77	Michael Dolan ...	47
W. S. Cronin.....	78	M. H. Kerins.....	49
W. J. O'Hagen...	80	A. J. Hanner.....	51
W. F. Albrecht...	86	J. J. McGovern...	52
A. T. R. Hogan..	87	R. L. Zingerman.	106
W. J. Turner.....	90	S. J. Kaizmarek..	107
Aron Bishku	93	C. E. McKeon....	116
Joseph Mechler ..	215	William Loehr ...	117
Frederick Bahr ..	218	T. C. Platt.....	121
John H. Eich	222	G. F. Quigley....	127
T. J. Fox	232	J. G. Fitzgerald..	129
W. I. Williams...	251	J. J. Muldoon....	132
F. A. Sullivan....	260	J L. Foley.....	143
J. J. Griffith.....	263	Thomas McCartin.	165
H. S. Maguire....	266	J. E. Donovan ...	167
E. J. Link	273		

Company commanders shall assign the the above-named members to the group and platoon numbers indicated above their names during the period of instruction.

Name Change

The name of Fireman 1st Grade John J. Keller, Hook and Ladder 132, is hereby changed on the records of this department to read Joseph J. Keller.

Notice

The new Coney Island high pressure fire service station, located at West 23d Street and Neptune Avenue, Coney Island, Brooklyn, is now in service. It will supply water to the high pressure hydrants in the same area and in the same manner as did the old high pressure pumping station.

This new station is equipped with five electrically driven centrifugal pumps, each capable of delivering 4,000 gallons per minute at 125 pounds pressure, this delivery being reduced as the pressure is increased, until at 225 pounds pressure each pump will deliver approximately 2,700 gallons per minute.

Leaves

Capt. John J. Dowling, Engine 5, for fifteen hours.

Lt. Dennis P. Travers, H. & L. 168, for six hours.

"Fire Department"
Aug 25, 1937
p 10

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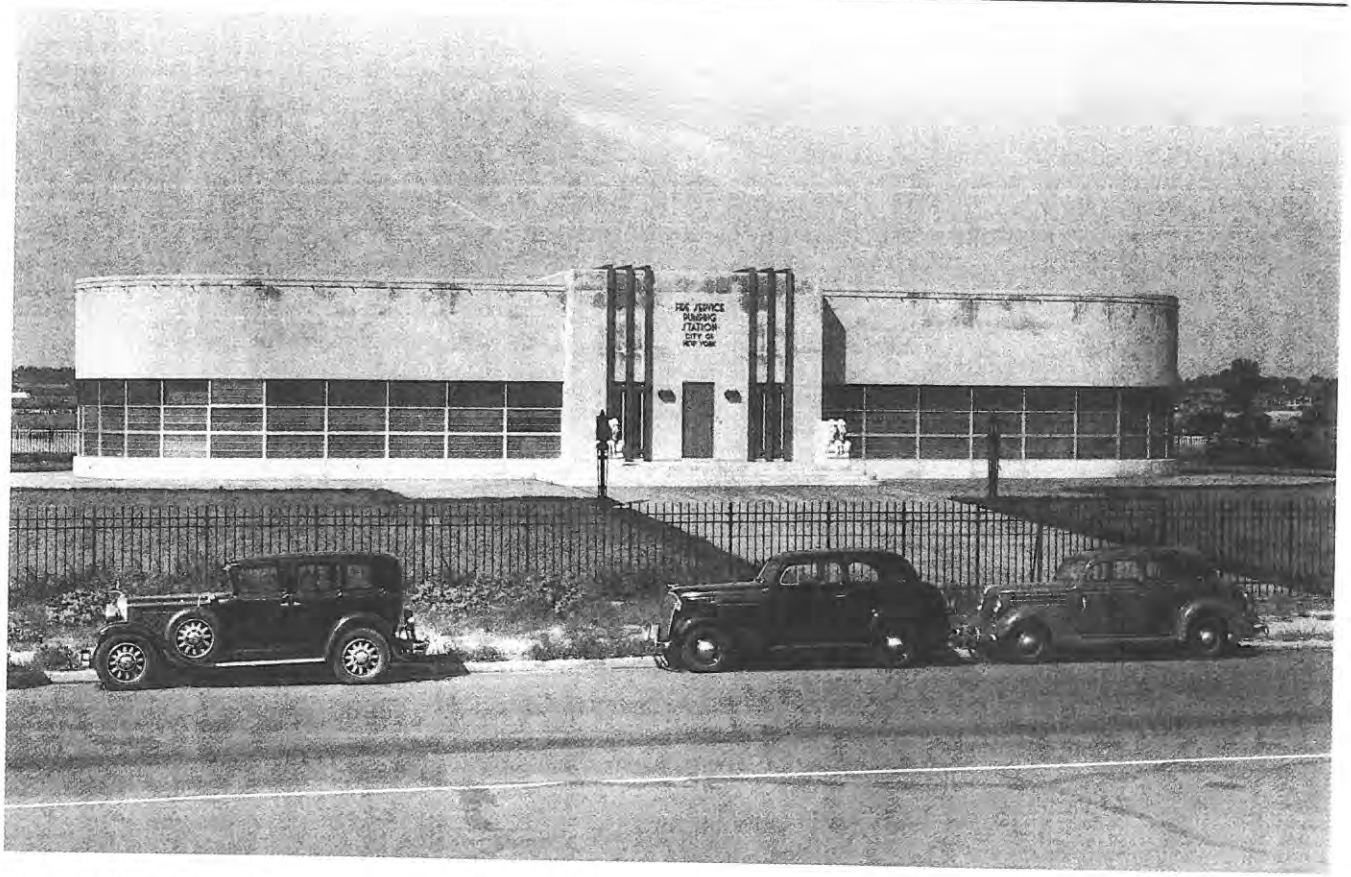


The building's designer, Dennis J. van der Bent of McKim, Mead & White, succeeded in combining most of these in a single, acoustically sophisticated room.[32] The facade echoed the genteel Georgian style of Paul R. Allen and Henry Creighton Ingalls's 1918 Henry Miller Theater located diagonally across the street,[33] but its associations with the early republic also served to vividly symbolize the spirit of democratic debate. A large stone panel on the front of the building bore the apt inscription: "You Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free."

In 1928 Tammany Hall set out to prove that it could at least appear as respectable as the sponsors of Town Hall by building a new Georgian headquarters at the southeast corner of Union Square East and Seventeenth Street. "It is well that the Big Chiefs and their tribesmen should hark back to the Colonial tradition," T-Square wrote, "but somehow one does not associate them with anything so chaste and simple."[34] The new Tammany Hall contained an assembly room for 1,200, a number of smaller committee and meeting rooms, and offices. Designed by Thompson, Holmes & Converse in association with Charles B. Meyers, it was sheathed in limestone and a special, large red brick—ironically made in England—to conform to the type used at Monticello by Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Democratic party. The elevations, however, resembled a fragment of Sir William Chambers's Somerset House in London—particularly in its recessed Doric portico overlooking Union Square.

Civic Buildings in the Outer Boroughs

Throughout the interwar years, the city's skyrocketing population increasingly migrated to the outer boroughs and the suburbs beyond. While the population of Manhattan decreased by nearly 400,000 between 1920 and 1940, the number of people living in Brooklyn increased by over 30 percent, and the population of Queens leaped from approximately 469,000 in 1920 to over 1,297,000 in 1940—an increase of more than 170 percent. The dramatic growth of the outer boroughs was reflected in the increasing decentralization of city government and a growing sense that each borough needed a distinct civic identity.

Staten Island (the borough of Richmond), the least accessible and consequently the most rural of the outer boroughs, ironically led the way toward architectural selfhood. When Staten Island was annexed by New York in 1898, the county seat was transferred from Richmondtown, which was virtually in the center of the island, to Saint George, at its northern tip, where a new group of government buildings was erected on the hills facing Manhattan. The first of these was a Modern French Borough Hall designed in 1906 by Carrère & Hastings,[35] who also designed the adjacent Richmond County Courthouse, with its pedimented temple portico overlooking the harbor, in 1913–19.[36] In 1918 Robert W. Gardner contributed a Georgian building for the Staten Island Museum at 75 Stuyvesant Place on the northeast corner of Wall Street.[37] These were joined by Sibley & Fetherston's 1930

Above: CONEY ISLAND HIGH PRESSURE PUMPING STATION, 2301 Neptune Avenue at West Twenty-third Street, Brooklyn. Irwin S. Chanin, 1937. CHANIN

Top right: FLUSHING POST OFFICE, southeast corner of Main Street and Flushing Avenue, Flushing, Queens. Dwight James Baum and William W. Knowles, 1932. View from the northwest. Gottscho-Schleisner. MCNY

Bottom right: BRONX CENTRAL ANNEX OF U. S. POST OFFICE, 558 Grand Concourse, northeast corner of 149th Street, Mott Haven, the Bronx. Thomas Harlan Ellett, 1934–37. View from the northwest. Gottscho-Schleisner. MCNY

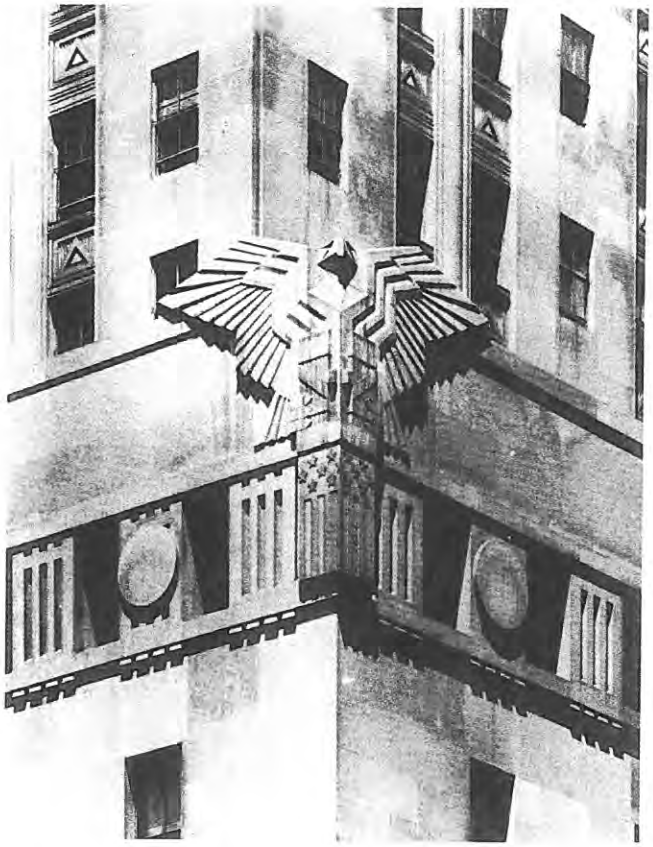
similar vocabulary, but unfortunately it was rather far from the Bronx County Building, at River Avenue and 151st Street.[48] The jail was a six-story, 260-foot-long slab with small pavilions at each end and an eight-story central tower. Recreational facilities were concealed behind a high parapet on the roof. Its light brick facades contrasted with the dark slots of vertical windows. Otherwise, the building's articulation was limited to the slightest of Classical moldings around the entrances and, at the top of the tower, a frieze and a truncated stepped pyramid.

In 1933 McKim, Mead & White completed the Bronx Grit Chamber at 158 Bruckner Boulevard.[49] One of the city's most authoritative essays in Classicism, its imposing facade, containing a central monumentally scaled arch surrounded by glass and culminating in a broken pediment, was as vital as Stanford White's design for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company's power plant had been a generation earlier. Completed four years after its design, the architecture of the city's first facility for treating sewage was a last hurrah for the civicism of the American Renaissance that found a sense of grandeur and authority to be appropriate to every municipal building, no matter what its function.

In contrast, Irwin S. Chanin's 1937 design for the Coney Island High Pressure Pumping Station at 2301 Neptune Avenue, between West Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets, abandoned the grand manner in favor of a more forthright expression of its industrial nature.[50] Chanin's design traded on the popular image of stylistic Modernism as a direct reflection of advanced technology and efficiency. On another level, the building's stylistic shift was sure evidence of the collapse of the civic vision of the American Renaissance and its replacement by values evolved for commercial building. The low, elongated building incorporated a three-tier band of windows that spanned the building's perimeter and was interrupted only by a centrally located projection—containing a principal entrance—on each of the long facades. On either side of the main entrance, three vertical bands of dark stone contrasted with the facade's light masonry and ran the height of the building, joining on the roof. Above the windows, a deep masonry band concealed the massive beams from which suspended cranes supported heavy machinery. The building was semicircular at each end, which strongly contributed to its stylishly streamlined appearance. Curiously, the editors of *American Architect* wrote, "The ends of the building were purposely made semi-circular to aid in the diffusion of natural light. The fact that the resulting lines add to the general interest of the building is entirely incidental." Sculpted depictions of winged horses, rendered in a Modern Classical style, struck the journal as "a bit affected," and as contributing "little to the appearance of the building."[51] While the sculptures were perhaps intended to allude to the traditional architectural vocabulary most often employed in civic buildings, they did not significantly alter the prevailing impression that the building was a piece of industrial engineering or at the very least, industrial design.

Federal Presence

The federal government commissioned many of the period's most distinguished civic buildings. This was particularly true during the Depression, when the Public Works Authority set out to stimulate the economy through the construction of post offices, which, in addition to performing customary functions, provided banking services and issued citizenship papers. As exemplars of the federal government's role in the common man's daily life, the post offices were not only powerful symbols of democracy but also offered a focus for many featureless neighborhoods. With widespread economic hardship threatening to give rise to social turmoil, the Depression-era post offices offered an idealized American past to bolster the government's aim of reassuring a volatile public that traditional institutions and values remained viable.



FEDERAL BUILDING, West Broadway, Church, Vesey, and Barclay streets. Cross & Cross with Pennington, Lewis & Mills, 1933–35. Detail of sculpture by C. Paul Jennewein. Wurts. MCNY

The strong association in the public imagination of the Georgian mode with a heroic era in American history, and with prosperity and private ownership, made it the ideal style for the facilities built in the suburban-scale residential neighborhoods of the outer boroughs. Dwight James Baum and William W. Knowles's 1932 Flushing Post Office, located on the corner of Main Street and Sanford Avenue in Queens, was the most imposing of the Georgian-style post offices.[52] A two-story building in "Jeffersonian-sized" brick and Vermont white marble, its principal feature was an Ionic-columned, pedimented portico in the center of a symmetrically arranged principal facade that was reached by a flight of steps. Carved eagles were placed on either side of the pediment and a circular emblem decorated the tympanum. Inside, a small vestibule opened onto a green- and cream-colored marble lobby crowned by a gently vaulted green plaster ceiling with moldings accented in gold. A 220-square-foot mural by Vincent Adriente, depicting the history of Long Island—concentrating on the Flushing area—ran along the perimeter of the room.

OFFICES · OF
IRWIN · S · CHANIN
ARCHITECT
122 · EAST · 42ND · STREET
NEW · YORK N · Y ·

APRIL
13th
1936

Art Co mission of the City of New York
City Hall
New York City.

ATT: MR.ARCHIBALD BROWN:

Dear Sir: RE:CONEY ISLAND HIGH PRESSURE FIRE PUMPING STATION.

In accordance with the Commission's request, we are submitting for their approval the samples of the proposed exterior materials to be used in connection with the High Pressure Fire Pumping Station at Coney Island.

The samples are as follows:

Concord Granite which is to be used at the base of the building.

Sweedish Blue Pearl Granite to be used for the fins of the entrance motifs.

Indiana Limestone for the remaining portion of entrance motifs and portion above window heads.

Very truly yours,

OFFICES OF IRWIN S.CHANIN

By- Jacques L. Delamarre

Jacques L. Delamarre

JLD/JD

CC.Mr.Wm.Flannery, Mechanical Engineer
Dept. of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity.

OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS
FOR
HIGH PRESSURE FIRE SERVICE PUMPING STATION
CONEY ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, GAS & ELECTRICITY
OFFICE OF IRWIN S. CHANIN
ARCHITECTS

- -

1- FOUNDATIONS: Reinforced concrete mat and basement floor with concrete piles.

2- BASEMENT WALLS: Reinforced Concrete.

3- WATERPROOFING: Membrane in tar or pitch around basement walls and under concrete mat.

4- ARCHES: Mezzanine and roof arches stone concrete, underside rubbed to smooth finish.

5- EXTERIOR FASCADE: 2'0" granite base: 8'0" high continuous steel casement windows glazed with rough wire glass: 10'0" limestone surface above windows: entrance motifs dark red granite with silver macata fins: granite entrance platform and steps.

6- ROOF: 20 year built up roofing.

7- ENTRANCE DOORS: Aluminum doors fluted in aluminum door frames.

8- GRILLES IN ENTRANCE MOTIF: Aluminum decorative grilles.

9- FLOORS: Non-slip dark blue tile.

10-INTERIOR WALLS: Glazed brick medium green color.

11-RAILINGS: Aluminum.

12-STAIRS: Steel stairs.

13-CRANE: 7½ ton electric operated Crane.

14-ORNAMENTAL STATUES: Cast stone metal plated.

15-ORNAMENTAL LETTERING: Aluminum projected letters.

16-EXTERIOR LIGHTING FIXTURES: Aluminum and glass.

17-PAINTING: Window frames and muntins and roof and mezzanine soffits aluminum.

18-EXTERIOR FENCE: Galvanized iron painted aluminum.

19-LANDSCAPING: Walks gravel and cement driveway entire plot to be graded, leveled and seeded, trees and shrubs to be planted.

20-PLUMBING: Necessary fixtures and shower.

21-HEATING: Indirect heaters with blowers; oil burning equipment.

22-ELECTRICAL: Complete wiring system for lighting and necessary lighting fixtures.

Coney Island, Brklyn, High Pressure Fire Service Pumping Station.

4685

1961

A

4550

5-2010-3M-B

Art Commission of The City of New York

Form "C."

Under Section 637 of the Charter,

DESIGNS FOR

A PUBLIC STRUCTURE

as described herein, are hereby submitted to the Art Commission for its approval.

Coney Island High Pressure Fire Service Pumping Station

Description of structure (or detail of structure) submitted

The central portion of the building exterior will be of dark red granite with a series of vertical silver fins between which there will be placed a series of four aluminum grilles extending approx. 6" from the surface and running from the base of the building up to and over the coping of the roof. The main entrance door, of fluted white metal, will be at the center of the building, and above it will appear the building name in white metal letters approx. 9" high and 1-1/2" in relief.

The wings of the building are to be approx. 20' high, the ends being circular in plan. They will consist of a limestone base, 2' high, a continuous glass casing 8' high, above which will be a limestone wall surface approx. 10' high. The floors are to be surfaced with dark blue non-slip tile, the wall areas and column enclosures to be of a medium green shade glazed brick. The mezzanine railing will be chromium finish. The fascia of the mezzanine will be of tile to match the floor. All ceiling and soffit surfaces and window frames will be painted aluminum.

Estimated cost $140,000

Location North side of Neptune Avenue between W. 23rd Street and West 24th Street, Coney Island

Architect, Painter or Sculptor whose designs are submitted

Irwin S. Chanin, Inc., 122 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.

1961 A 4550

CONEY ISLAND HIGH PRESSURE PUMPING STATION.

Submission 4685.

Committee appointed March 29, 1935, consisting of Commissioners Lamb, Blum, Halsey.

April 9, 1935, the Committee recommended approval.

April 9, 1935, the Commission passed the following resolution:

CERTIFICATE 4550.

RESOLVED, That the Art Commission, having considered the designs for, and location of, a high pressure pumping station at the north side of Neptune Avenue between 23d and 24th Streets, Brooklyn, submitted by the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, represented by Exhibits "1961-A", "B", C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", and "I", of record in this matter, hereby gives to the same its approval subject to the substitution of limestone for red granite in the central motif, the use of a light colored granite for the base, platforms, and steps, and with the recommendation that stainless steel be used in place of the aluminum on the exterior, also with the understanding that working drawings and full sized details or scale drawings of ornamental portions, including the statuary groups, as well as samples of materials proposed for the exterior work, are to be submitted to the Art Commission for final action, and conditioned upon the commencement of the work on or before April 9, 1938.

See correspondence - Keutgen - April 18, 1935.

Exhibits, submitted herewith (including model, if requested)

Every application should be accompanied by duplicate sets of drawings, photographs, sketches or prints called "Exhibits," fully illustrating the structure and its proposed location.

2 sets of blueprints

2 copies of outline specifications

State whether "Preliminary" or "final" action is asked for

If desired, the Commission will pass upon plans or sketches in outline, reserving its approval of details until designs or models in detail have been completed and submitted.

Final action

Date of submission March 29, 1935

Name and full address of applicant*

Deputy and Acting Commissioner,
Department of Water Supply, Gas & Electricity
Municipal Building,
New York, N.Y.

From "RULES AND PROCEDURE" of the Art Commission.

*RULE 21.—No submission shall be approved by the Art Commission unless it shall have been signed by the head of the department, corporation or person having official charge of the matter, or unless the authority of any other person or persons making such submission shall have been evidenced by the written statement of the head of the department or of such corporation or person.

March 1, 1937.

Hon. Joseph Goodman,
Commissioner, Department of Water Supply,
Gas and Electricity,
Municipal Building,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am authorized by the Emergency Committee on Sculpture to advise you that the sculptured figures for the facade of the Coney Island High Pressure Pumping Station will be recommended for approval at the next meeting of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Assistant Secretary.

3-1

June 1, 1936.

Colonel Thomas W. Hammond,
Commissioner, Department of Water
Supply, Gas and Electricity,
Municipal Building,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

The Architect Member of the Art Commission authorizes me to inform you that the samples of materials proposed for the Coney Island High Pressure Pumping Station and submitted to him meet with his approval and that he will report his approval at the next meeting of the Board on June 9, 1936.

Respectfully yours,

Assistant Secretary.

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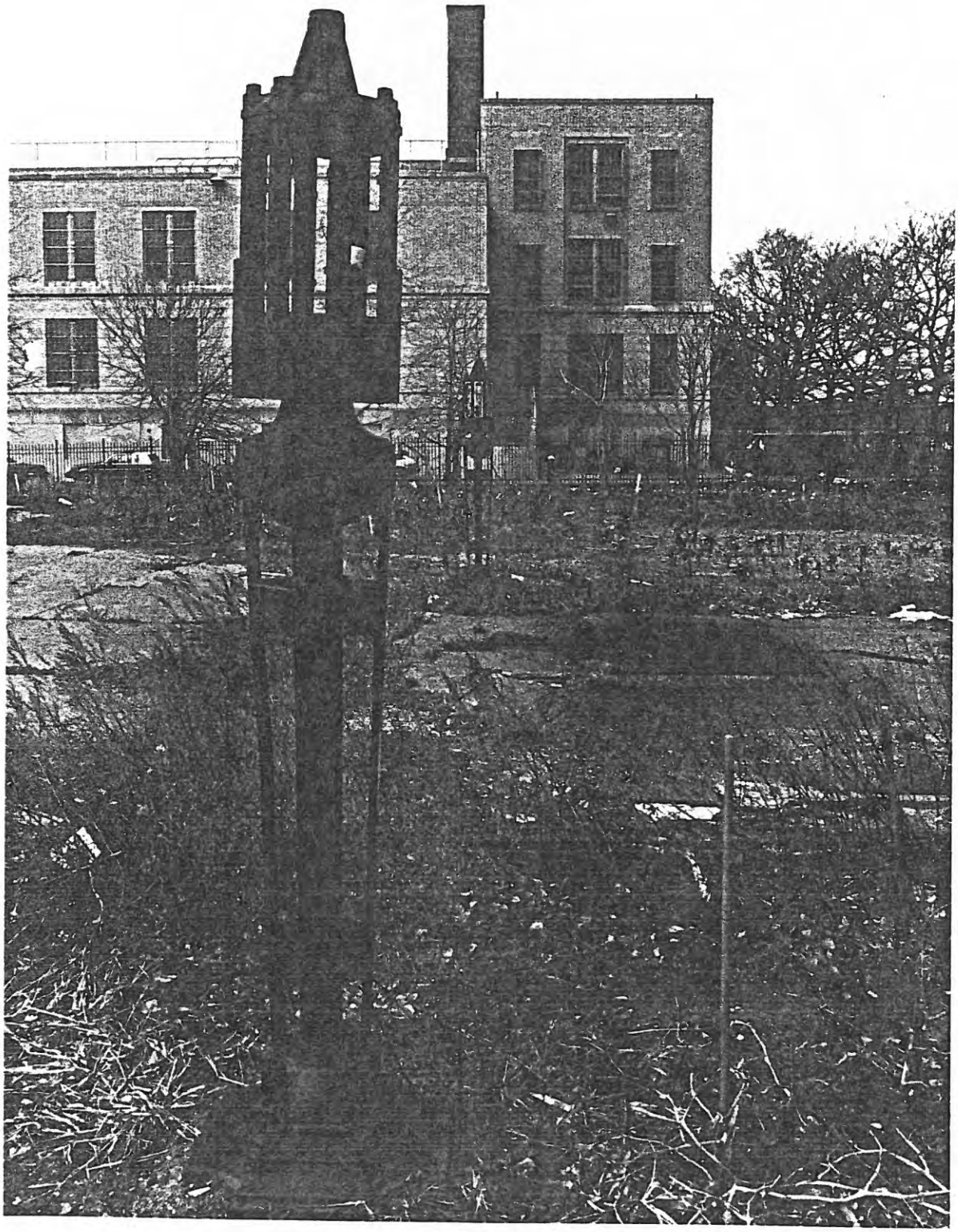
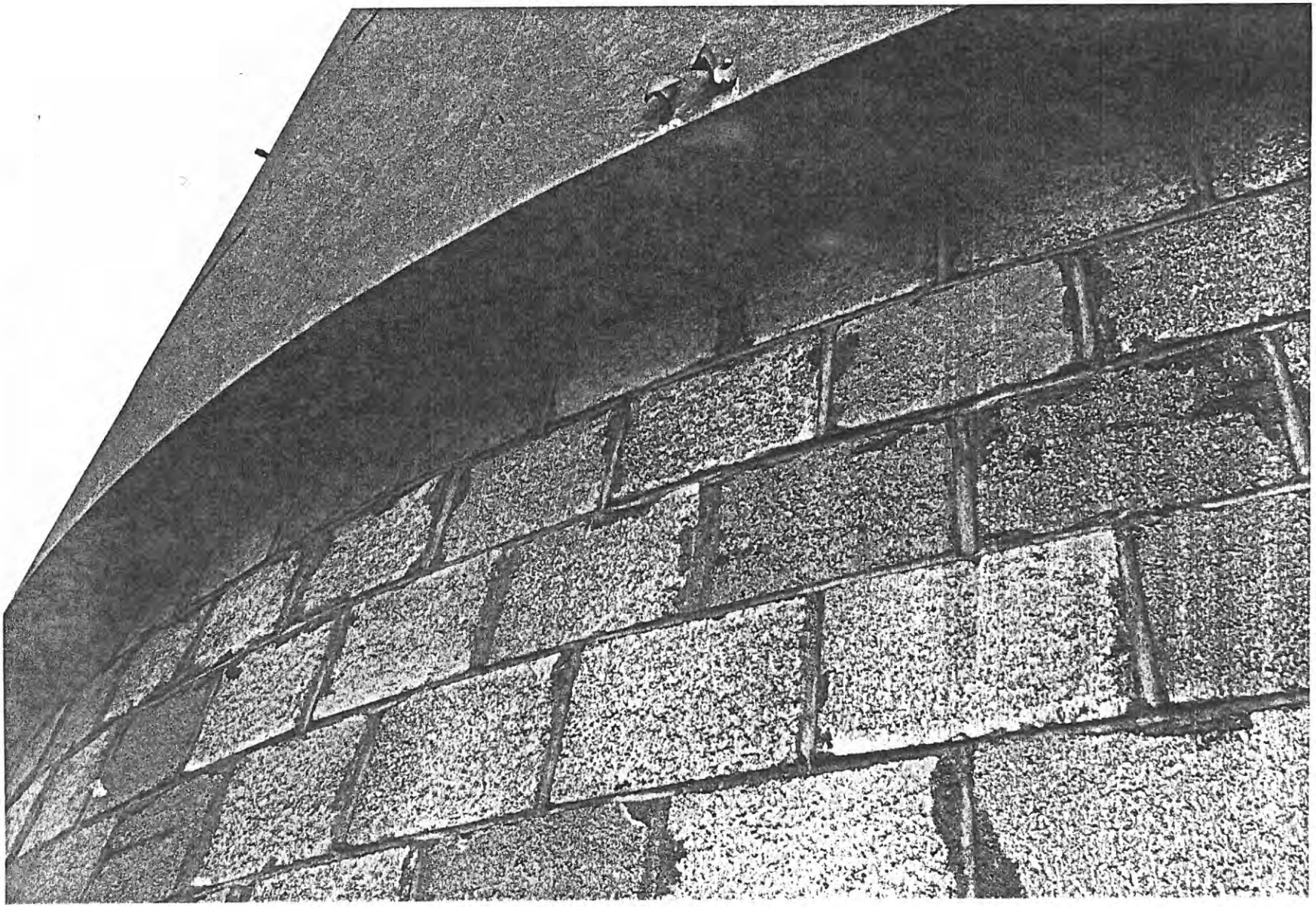
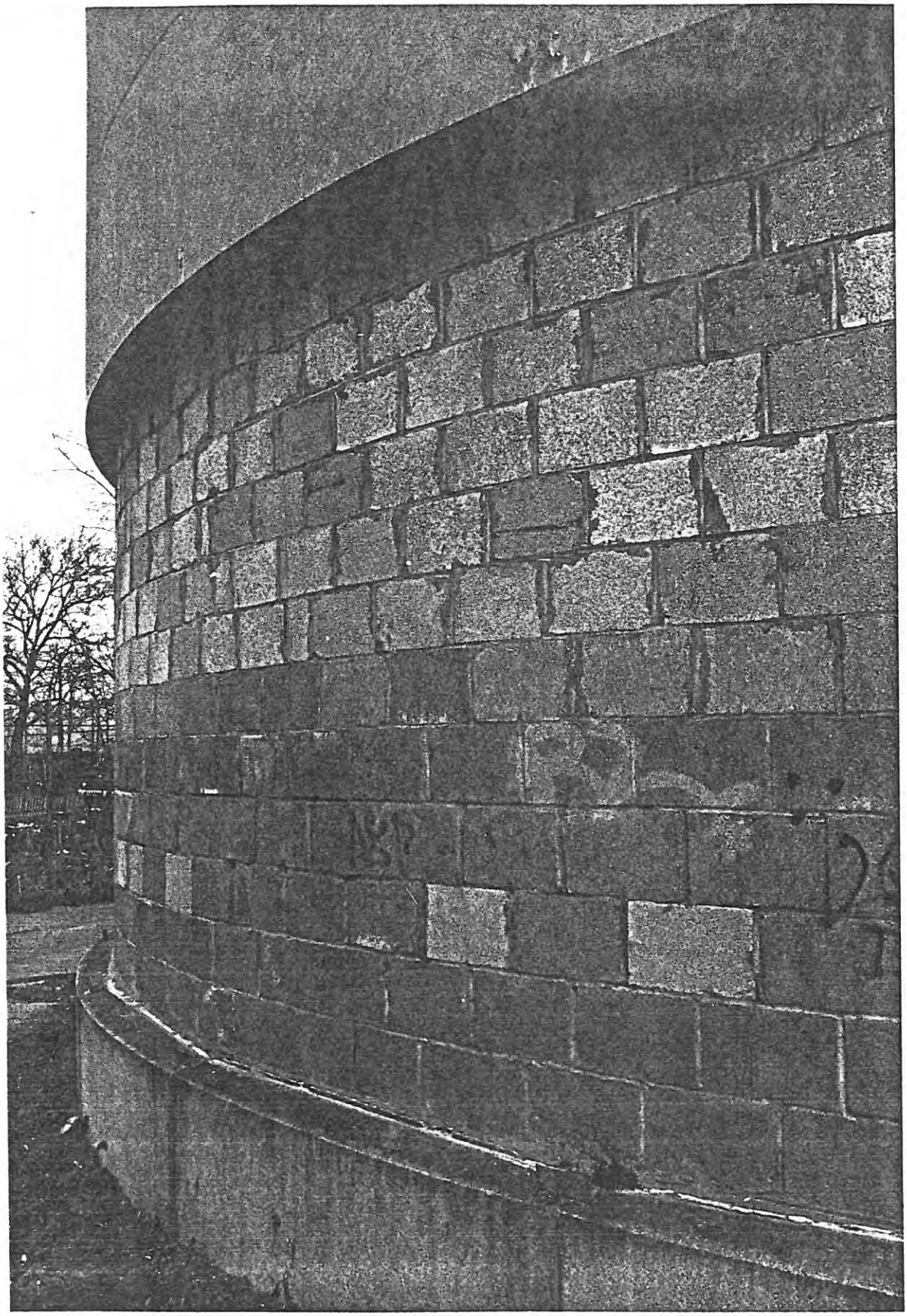
STYLE NO. 35-7B

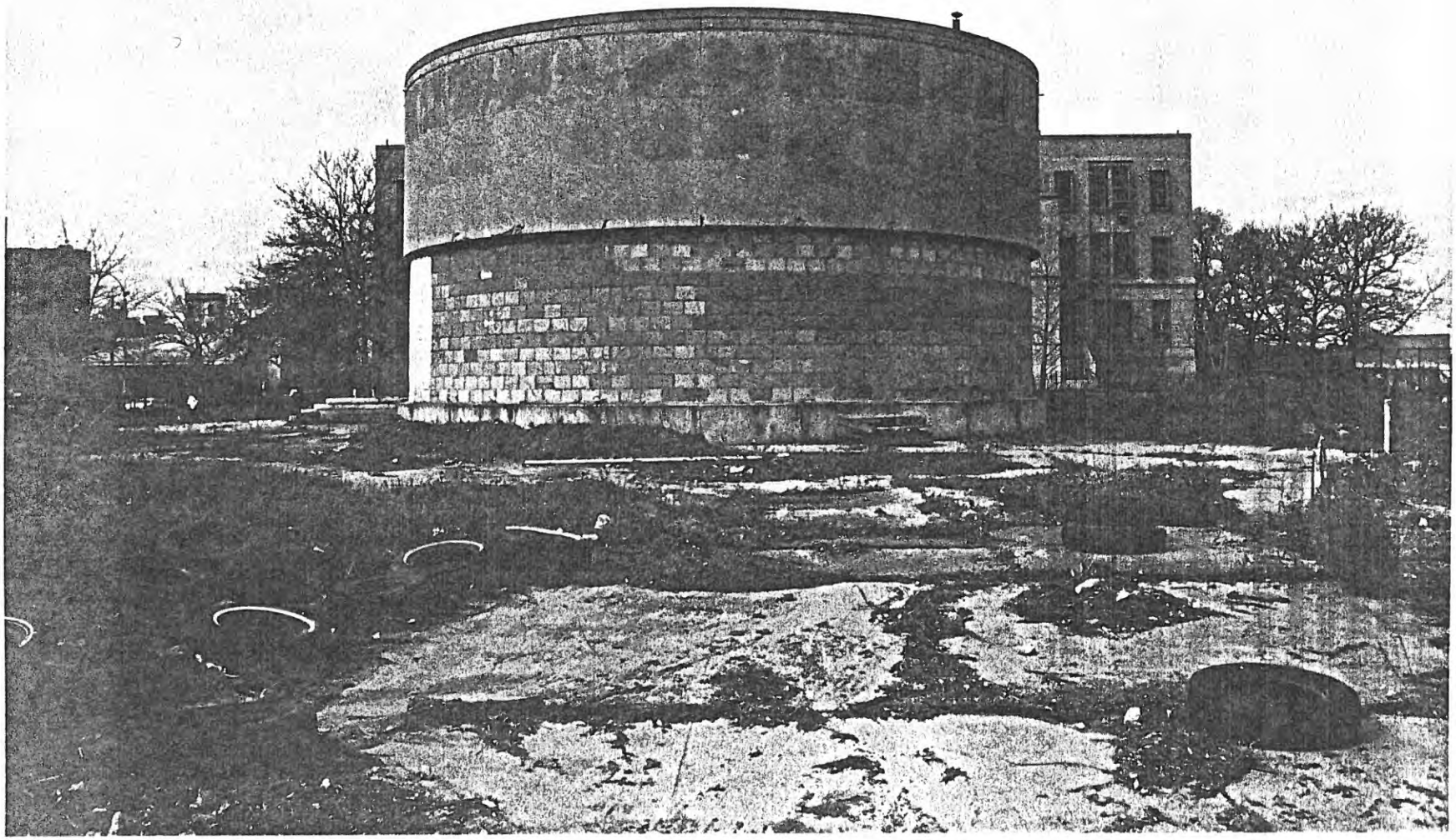
INSERT EMULSION SIDE DOWN

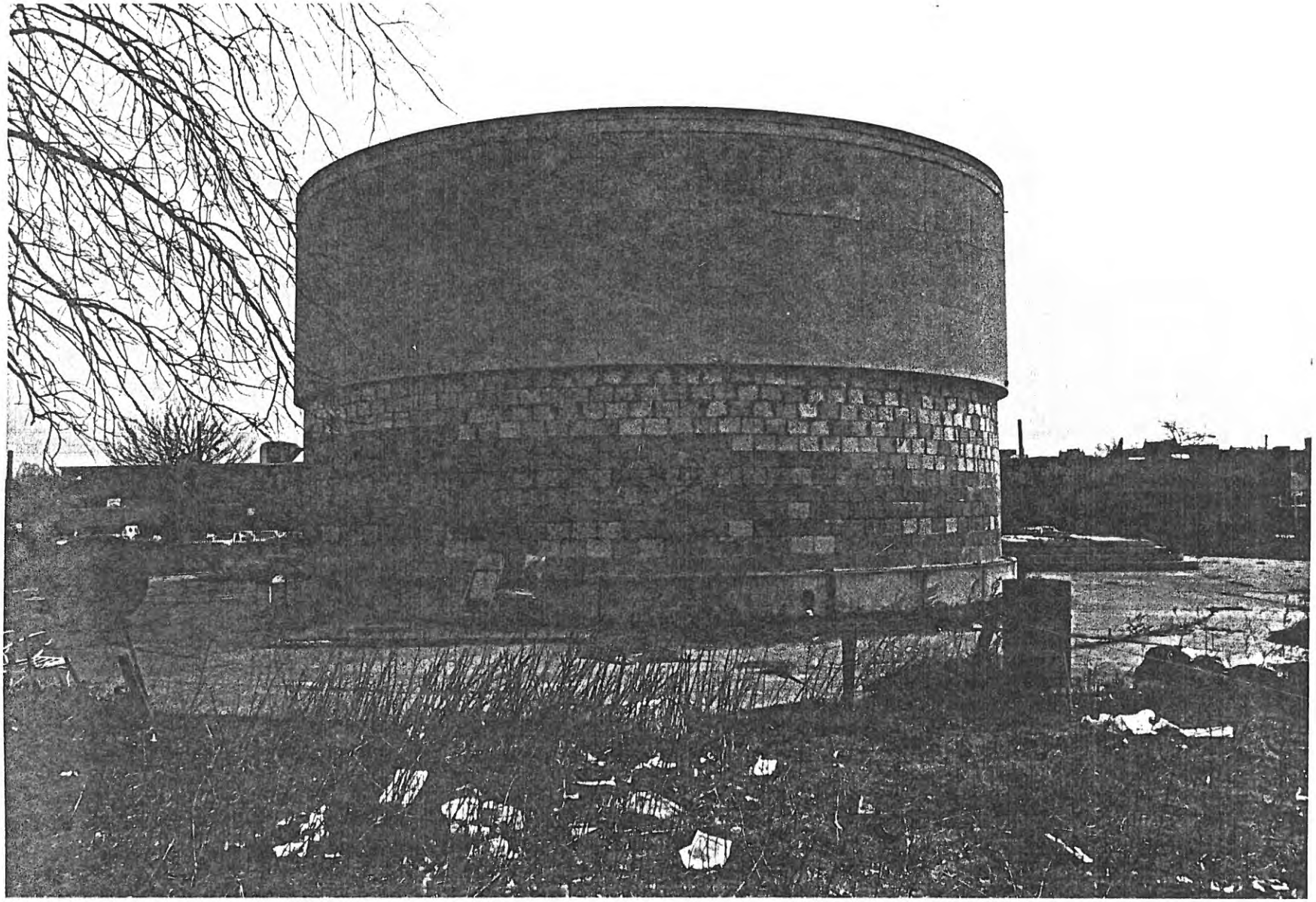
DATE ASSIGNMENT FILE NO.











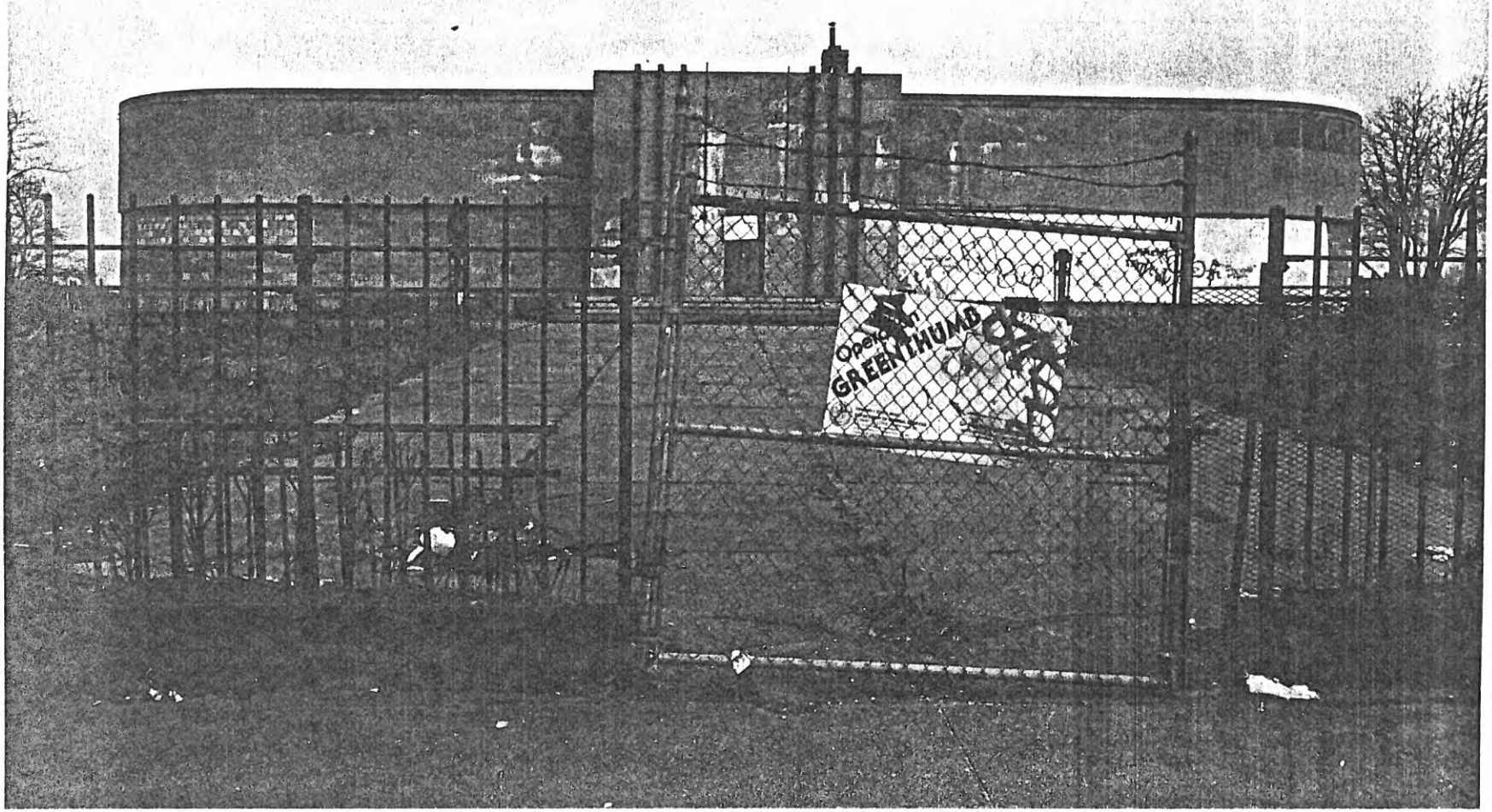
5-2011-24-B

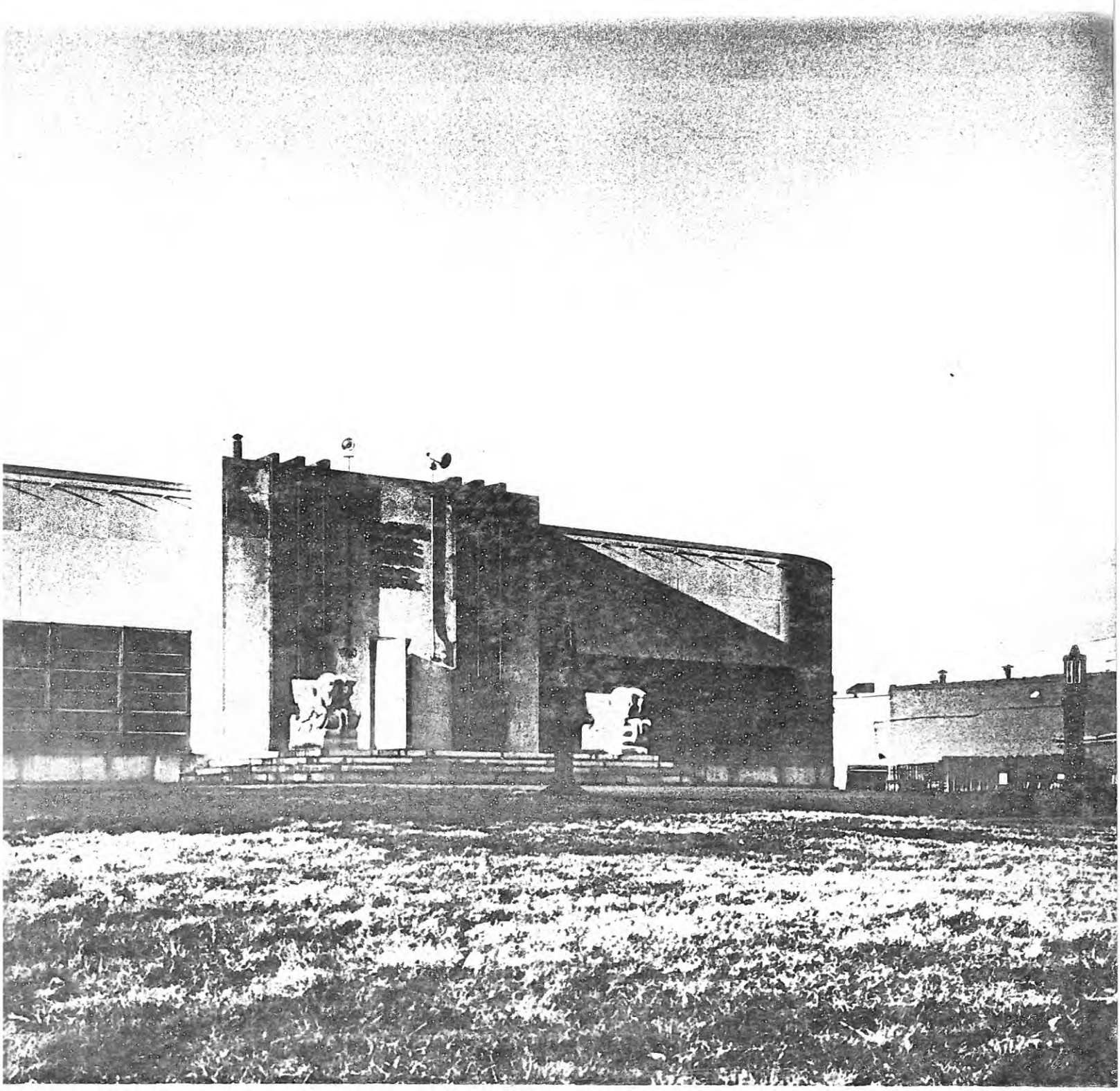
New York, April 18, 1935.

RECEIVED FROM ART COMMISSION EXHIBITS NUMBERED

"1961-A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", and "I".

Please sign and return to Art Commission.


GREENTHUMB



B-157 Pumping Station, 2400 Neptune Avenue (CPD 13). I.S. Chanin, Architect, 1937. NYC Department of Water Resources. 7,000 S.F. This inoperative Fire Pumping Station is awaiting transfer to the Board of Estimate. A 1937 Art Deco pavillion building of unusual clarity, it is in good overall con-

A/A Guide to NYC

[25.] Sea Park East, bet. W. 27th and W. 29th Sts. N side Surf Ave. 1975. Hoberman & Wasserman.

Lesser versions of Sea Rise I above [19.].

[26.] Ocean Towers, N side Surf Ave., bet. W. 24th and W. 25th Sts. 1975. Prentice & Chan, Ohlhausen.

Beige, semiglazed brick; black sliding sash. An unbroken monolith.

[27.] 2920 and 2940 W. 21st Street, NW cor. Surf Ave. 1974. James Doman & Emil Steo.

Simple 7-story warm gray brick.

[28.] Fire Service Pumping Station/Coney Island High Pressure Pumping Station, N.Y.C. Department of Water Resources, 2301 Neptune Ave. bet. W. 23rd and W. 24th Sts. N side. 1937. Irwin S. Chanin.

Wraparound lights of fixed glass and a lozenge plan tie this work to the same European influences vividly realized in the **Paris Exposition of 1937.** Guarding the entrance of this pure white bilaterally symmetrical structure are two pairs of moderne prancing steeds.

[29.] 2835–37 W. 37th Street, bet. Neptune and Canal Aves. E side.

Mykonos in Brooklyn, complete to the textured stucco and whitewashed surfaces. Mediterranean memories must have been vivid among the masons responsible for this **vernacular conversion** of two adjacent two-family houses of standard design.

SE

SOUTHEASTERN BROOKLYN

Town of Flatlands/Nieuw Amersfoort

Established as a town in 1666; annexed to the City of Brooklyn in 1896.

The name **Flatlands** aptly describes this area. It is billiard-table flat, much of it still marshy. A considerable part bordering Jamaica Bay is landfill. The area includes much of **Midwood;** the inland portion is known as **Flatlands,** part of which has been developed [illegible] park; and the shorefront areas of **Floyd Bennett Field, Bergen** [illegible] **Basin,** and **Canarsie.**

MIDWOOD

[1.] Van Nuyse-Magaw House, 1041 E. 22nd St., bet. Avenues I and J. E side. ca. 1800. ★

Built at **East 22nd Street** and **Avenue M,** this farmhouse was moved about 1916 and turned perpendicular to the street in order to fit its narrow lot. The distinctive "Dutch Colonial" gambrel roof is, therefore, the street facade. Woodwork and the oval window into the front hall are Federal. The silly columns at the entrance date from a 1952 "restoration."

[2.] Johannes Van Nuyse House, also called the **Coe House,** 1128 E. 34th St., bet. Flatbush Ave. and Ave. J. W side. 1744, 1793, 1806. ★

It manages to look like a well-dressed man on an assembly line: *too neat* for its neighbors.

FLATLANDS

[3.] Pieter Claessen Wyckoff House, 5902 Clarendon Rd. at intersection of Ralph and Ditmas Aves. SW cor. ca. 1641. ★ Restoration architects, Oppenheimer, Brady and Vogelstein.

Hard to find in this confused stretch of street intersections, it is a *tired hulk* badly in need of the restoration promised. Not worth a visit now, its

139. P.S. 134 (MIDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX), 4001 18th Ave. 1901
NYC, Board of Education CPD 12; Block 5416; Lot

140. 70TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION, 154 Lawrence Ave. 1910
NYC, Police Department CPD 12; Block 5423; Lot 21

141. P.S. 152 (THE GLENWOOD ROAD), 2310 Glenwood Road 1907
NYC, Board of Education CPD 14; Block 7551; Lot 26

142. MIDWOOD H.S., Bedford Ave. & Glenwood Road 1940
NYC, Board of Education CPD 14; Block 7553; Lot 41

143. BROOKLYN COLLEGE, SCIENCE BUILDING, Bedford Ave. & Ave. H Randolf, Evans, & Corbett, 1936
NYC, Higher Education CPD 14; Block 7556; Lot

144. BROOKLYN COLLEGE, LaGUARDIA HALL, Bedford Ave. & Ave. H Randolf, Evans, & Corbett, 1925
NYC, Higher Education CPD 14; Block 7552; Lot

145. BROOKLYN COLLEGE, ROOSEVELT HALL, Bedford Ave. & Ave. H Randolf, Evans, & Corbett, 1936
NYC, Higher Education CPD 14; Block 7552; Lot

146. BROOKLYN COLLEGE, BOYLAN HALL, Bedford Ave. & Ave. H Randolf, Evans, & Corbett, 1938
NYC, Higher Education CPD 14; Block 7556; Lot

147. BROOKLYN COLLEGE, LIBRARY, Bedford Ave. & Ave. H Randolf, Evans, & Corbett, 1925
NYC, Higher Education CPD 14; Block 7556; Lot

148. BROOKLYN COLLEGE, INGERSOLL HALL, Bedford Ave. & Ave. H Randolf, Evans, & Corbett, 1936
NYC, Higher Education CPD 14; Block 7556; Lot

149. 63RD PRECINCT POLICE STATION, 1844 Brooklyn Ave. 1939
NYC, Police Department CPD 18; Block 7599; Lot 67

150. PUMPING STATION, Flatlands Ave. & Ralph Ave.
NYC, Bureau of Sewers CPD 17; Block 8012; Lot

151. FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, U.S. COAST GUARD AIR STATION, Flatbush Ave. & Belt Parkway 1935-39
FED, U.S. Coast Guard CPD Block 8470; Lot

152. FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, CONTROL TOWER 1939
FED, National Park Service CPD Block 8470; Lot

153. FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, BUILDING 23
FED, National Park Service CPD Block 8470; Lot

154. FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, HANGAR 1939
FED, National Park Service CPD Block 8470; Lot

155. FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, HANGAR 1939
FED, National Park Service CPD Block 8470; Lot

156. POLICE STATION, MTD SQUADRON #2, TROOP "E", 2815 Brighton St.
NYC, Police Department CPD 15; Block 7261; Lot

157. FIRE SERVICE, PUMPING STATION, Neptune Ave. (between 23rd & 24th Sts.) 1937
NYC, EPA--Water Resources CPD 13; Block 6965; Lot

158. 61ST PRECINCT POLICE STATION, 1423 Ave. U C. H. Moss, 1906
NYC, Police Department CPD 15; Block 7319; Lot 37

159. ENGINE CO. #276, 1635 E. 14th St. 1910
NYC, Fire Department CPD 14; Block 6777; Lot 64

160. ENGINE CO. #253, 2429 86th St. 1895
NYC, Fire Department CPD 11; Block 6859; Lot 67

161. P.S. 128 (THE BENSONHURST), 8310 21st Ave. 1900
NYC, Board of Education CPD 11; Block 6329; Lot 32

162. 62ND PRECINCT POLICE STATION, 1925 Bath Ave. 1906
NYC, Police Department CPD 11; Block 6406; Lot 45

163. ENGINE CO. #243, 8653 18th Ave. 1896
NYC, Fire Department CPD 11; Block 6369; Lot 24

164. P.S. 204 (THE VINCE LOMBARDI), 8101 15th Ave. 1929
NYC, Board of Education CPD 11; Block 6294; Lot 1

165. MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE HOUSE, DYKER BEACH PARK, 86th St. & 11th Ave. 1935
NYC, Parks & Recreation CPD 10; Block 6418; Lot

166. ENGINE CO. #242, 9219 5th Ave. 1895
NYC, Fire Department CPD 10; Block 6109; Lot 19

167. P.S. 127 (THE McKINLEY PARK), 7th Ave. & 79th St. 1900
NYC, Board of Education CPD 10; Block 5973; Lot 1

168. ENGINE CO. #284, 1157 79th St. Frank H. Quinby, 1913
NYC, Fire Department CPD 10; Block 6254; Lot 53

169. ENGINE CO. #247, 1336 60th St. 1897
NYC, Fire Department CPD 12; Block 5719; Lot 22

170. ENGINE CO. #282, 4210 12th Ave. Hoppin & Koen, 1912
NYC, Fire Department CPD 12; Block 5597; Lot 44

NYC BUILDINGS

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NYC Department of Buildings

Property Profile Overview

2327 NEPTUNE AVENUE **BROOKLYN 11224** **BIN# 3188220**

NEPTUNE AVENUE	2301 - 2327	**Health Area**	: 9010	**Tax Block**	: 6965
WEST 23 STREET	2772 - 2772	**Census Tract**	: 330	**Tax Lot**	: 125
MARGINAL STREET	NO NUMBER	**Community Board**	: 313	**Condo**	: NO
		Buildings on Lot	: 1	**Vacant**	: NO

View DCP Addresses... **Browse Block** **View Certificates of Occupancy**

Cross Street(s):	WEST 23 STREET, WEST 24 STREET		
DOB Special Place Name:			
DOB Building Remarks:			
Landmark Status:	C - CALENDARED	**Special Status:**	N/A
Local Law:	NO	**Loft Law:**	NO
SRO Restricted:	NO	**TA Restricted:**	NO
UB Restricted:	NO		
Little 'E' Restricted:	N/A	**Grandfathered Sign:**	NO
Legal Adult Use:	NO	**City Owned:**	YES
Additional BINs for Building:	NONE		
Special District:	NONE		

Department of Finance Building Classification: Y9-GOVERNMENT INSTAL

Please Note: The Department of Finance's building classification information shows a building's tax status, which may not be the same as the legal use the structure. To determine the legal use of a structure, research the records of the Department of Buildings.

	Total	Open
Complaints	0	0
Violations-DOB	0	0
Violations-ECB	0	0
Jobs/Filings	0	
PRA / ARA Jobs	0	
Total Jobs	0	
Total Actions	0	

Elevator Records
Electrical Applications
Permits In-Process / Issued
Illuminated Signs Annual Permits
Plumbing Inspections
Open Plumbing Jobs / Work Types
Facades
Marquee Annual Permits
Boiler Records
DEP Boiler Information

If you have any questions please review these Frequently Asked Questions, the Glossary, or call the 311 Citizen Service Center by dialing 311 or (212) NEW YORK outside of New York City.

The Hearst Building

The six-story Hearst International Magazine Building was originally designed by Joseph Urban (1872-1933) in association with George B. Post and Sons in 1928 as a twenty-story Art Deco office building. It occupies the block from West 56th Street to West 57th Street along Eighth Avenue. Allegorical statues representing "Sport and Industry," "Printing and the Sciences" and "Comedy and Tragedy" decorate the exterior.

Reader's Digest

The central portion of the Reader's Digest Building in Pleasantville, New York, crowns the doorway to the adjoining reading area of the Periodical Room. The first few editions of *Reader's Digest* (February 1922) were mailed from DeWitt Wallace's apartment in Greenwich Village at 1 Minetta Lane. In 1923, the offices were moved to a pony shed in Pleasantville, New York. Since 1939, headquarters for the Reader's Digest Association have been in this building designed by James C. MacKenzie.

The Look Building

To the immediate right of the doorway, the Look Building, built as the corporate headquarters of Cowles Communications, impresses the eye with its seemingly infinite strips of ribbon windows. In 1950, Emery Roth and Sons designed this twenty-four-story structure located at 488 Madison Avenue (51st and 52nd Streets). The Look Building provides an elegant example of ribbon windows and columns recessed from the exterior, an office building style that emerged in the postwar era.

City Hall, Newspaper Row Park Row, Old Post Office

The murals on the Fifth Avenue side of the room give a turn-of-the-century view of Newspaper Row, located south of City Hall at the intersection of Park Row and Nassau Streets. The *World* (1881-1930), the *Tribune* (1841-1924) and the New York *Times* (1851-) clustered their offices here with other metropolitan dailies in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The brownstone with a gilded dome built in 1890 (enlarged in 1908), by George B. Post (1837-1913), housed the offices of Joseph Pulitzer's New York *World*. Next door, in a red brick building with a clock tower designed by Richard Morris Hunt (1827-1895), was Horace Greeley's New York *Tribune*. Hunt's structure, one of Manhattan's first skyscrapers and earliest elevator buildings, stood until 1966. From 1851 to 1904, the New York *Times* used three buildings on Newspaper Row for their offices. Adjacent to the *Tribune* Building, the third *Times* office (41 Park Row) was located in a building rebuilt and enlarged by George B. Post in 1889.

The mural on the right of Newspaper Row shows the second home of the New York *Times* (1857-1887), near the Old Post Office. A bronze figure of Benjamin Franklin by Ernst Plassman stood in Printinghouse Square in front of this 1857 *Times* office.

The Puck Building

The Puck Building is depicted in the left-most mural on the 40th Street side of the DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room. Only one side of the building, the East Houston and Mulberry Street section with the figure of Puck, is shown here.

In 1885 Albert Wagner designed a red brick seven-story Romanesque style building at 295-305 Lafayette Street–the block bounded by East Houston, Lafayette, Jersey and Mulberry Streets. Two stories were added by Wagner in 1892-3. The Puck Building was characterized in *King's Handbook of New York* (1893) as the "largest building in the world devoted to the business of lithography and publishing, with a floor area of nearly eight acres." Two metal figures of Puck by Henry Baerer (1837-1908) appear in the entablature of the entrance and on the East Houston and Mulberry Street side of this structure as mentioned above.

Harper's

The Harper and Brothers Building appears in the largest mural on the 40th Street side of the room. An early example of cast-iron architecture in New York City, the Harper Building stood at 331 Pearl Street in Franklin

Times Square

The New York *Times* offices from 1904 to 1913, designed by Cyrus L. W. Eidlitz (1853-1921) and Alexander MacKenzie in 1904, fill the central panel to the right of Herald Square. The mural shows the twenty-five-story tower as it appeared before the removal of its original terra-cotta skin in 1966. The headquarters for New York *Times* are now located at 229 West 43rd Street.

Time-Life Building

The thirty-three-story Time-Life Building in Rockefeller Center, depicted in this mural, was designed in 1936 and completed in 1938 by an eight-member team known as Associated Architects including L. Andrew Reinhard and Henry Hofmeister, Harvey W. Corbett, Wallace K. Harrison and William H. MacMurray, Raymond Hood, Frederick Godley and Jacques Andre Fouilhoux. In 1960, Time-Life moved to new offices at 1271 Avenue of the Americas at West 50th Street.

The DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room houses current general-interest and humanities publications. Nearly 10,000 periodicals in 22 languages from 124 countries are maintained by a full-time staff of fifteen people. Additionally, 1,100 titles are purchased in microfilm annually and 250 are filmed at the library. The extensive collection housed in the DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room is relied on by tens of thousands of readers each year.

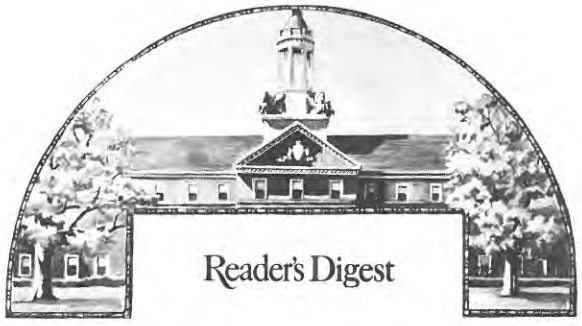
Lt. Williams Current Historian Fire Dept.

570-4230

DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room

The New York Public Library

Murals by Richard Haas



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

June 14, 1978

Mr. Robert Ohlerking
95 St. John's Place
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

Dear Mr. Ohlerking:

Thank you for your letter asking whether the Coney Island Pumping Station located at 2301-2327 Neptune Avenue would qualify for landmark designation by our Commission.

As you know our mandate from the City involves the designation of architecturally and/or historically notable individual buildings, Historic Districts, Interiors and Scenic Landmarks. This involves a high degree of selectivity in a city the size of New York.

As has been done in this case a careful study and evaluation of the merits of each proposed structure or site must be conducted. In addition, before any designation can be made, a public hearing must be held, after which the evidence presented is evaluated by the Commissioners before any further action is taken.

We shall bring the Coney Island Pumping Station to the attention of our Commissioners to determine whether they wish to consider it for possible designation.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Commission and for wishing to preserve this unique building which you consider worthy of the City's attention. We are pleased to receive your nominations.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Barwick
Chairman

KB:DB:ig

October 1, 1978

Honorable Kent Barwick, Chairman
New York City Landmarks Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Barwick:

As I drive to work each day, I pass the Coney Island Pumping Station on Neptune Avenue in Brooklyn. To my disappointment I have recently discovered that this building has still not been designated a New York City Landmark. I would like to recommend that this building be so designated.

This modest, though architecturally handsome, building is almost one of a kind. Built before World War II, and still standing, mercifully intact, it is representative of a style of building that has never been built again. City-owned, the building would not stir up much controversy if it were designated. Designation would preserve the Coney Island Pumping Station for future generations to enjoy as much as I do.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Li Greci

Christopher Li Greci
2125 East 5th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11223

RECEIVED
OCT 5 1978
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION

Anthony Agostino
7 Matthew Dr, Amityville, N.Y. 11701

The Honorabl Edward I Koch.
Mayor
City Hall, of Newyork City
New york City N-y. 10017.

10/17/81

Anthony S Agostino
7 Matthew Drive,
Amityville, N.Y. 11701

Dear YOur HOnor, I am writing in regard To an event that has brought a great DeaL of Saddness into My life YOU See SIR I am a Native born Brooklynite From the Bensonhurst Section, as I was riding on my favorite Parkway which is the Belt PKWy Coming Towards Coney Island and exit Bay 8th I Noticed To my great Shock that thee famas Coney Island Gas Tank was being DiSmanteld, you can not beleive the many memories I hold for The great structure which I have Spent many happy exciting time of my childhood, I Know it only an object But to me it is one of my Preicous memorie of my childhood in Brooklyn,. I Know that you are a man of much respect for the old Vanous,

Which Landmarks like this remind us let me give you an example of what I mean, many Times during my childhood I would go to Coney Island with my Parents and I would always be Thrilled by the sight of that memeribilia that stood on my Left that Brought me Joy, IT would be a Tragedy if this action continues. what I'm hoping you can Do to save it is to have them declare the Tank to be a Landmark then it can be rebuilt and sustained for all Times until God sends the messiah to Bring us the Peace that he meant to be. I am also enclosing a Photographphotograph of what this great Land mark used to Look like with you help it can be restored.

Thank you very

~~May Peace~~

May God's Peace be with you always.

Sincerley

Anthony Agostino

TANK

Coney Island's
Gas Tank
Coney Island
Brooklyn N.Y.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

20 VESEY STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

566-7577

November 13, 1981

Anthony S. Agostino
7 Matthew Drive
Amityville, New York 11701

Dear Mr. Agostino:

Thank you for your request that the Coney Island Gas Tank be considered for designation as a New York City Landmark. Chairman Barwick has referred the matter to the research staff working in that area under the direction of Joan Olshansky for its evaluation and recommendation. When this is done, we will be in touch with you further.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie Pearson

Marjorie Pearson
Director of Research

MP:jb

cc: Joan Olshansky

Marjorie

October 30, 1978

Mr. Christopher Li Greci
2125 East 5th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11223

Dear Mr. Li Greci:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 1978 regarding the possibility of landmark designation for the building known as the Coney Island Pumping Station on Neptune Avenue in Brooklyn.

I have given your letter to my staff for their study and investigation and have asked them to report back to me. When this has been done you will hear further from us.

Your interest is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Kent Barwick
Chairman

cc: Lenore Norman
Marjorie Pearson

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
CITY OF NEW YORK

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW MISSION

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1987

TO: BOROUGH OFFICE: Brooklyn — Bill Woods
TRANSPORTATION: John Kulpa
OTHER: Karen Votava / Holly Haff
Jeremy Woodoff
Eric Kober

DATE: 3/13/87

FROM: mary Kiernan 566-0777

SUBJECT: Neptune Ave Family Residence Center

BOROUGH Brooklyn

PROJECT No: 87-266 K

We have received:

_____ the Project Data Statement and plans

_____ Additional Information

_____ The Draft Environmental Impact Statement

_____ The Final Environmental Impact Statement

on the above referenced project and have begun, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, an environmental review. Kindly review and transmit comments ~~by~~ as soon as possible you are aware of any significant issues or conflicts. Please base your review on existing information and your professional judgement. It is not necessary to contact Community Boards. Submission of your comments within two weeks is necessary to guarantee their consideration within the timeframe mandated by Executive Order No. 91, City Environmental Quality Review.

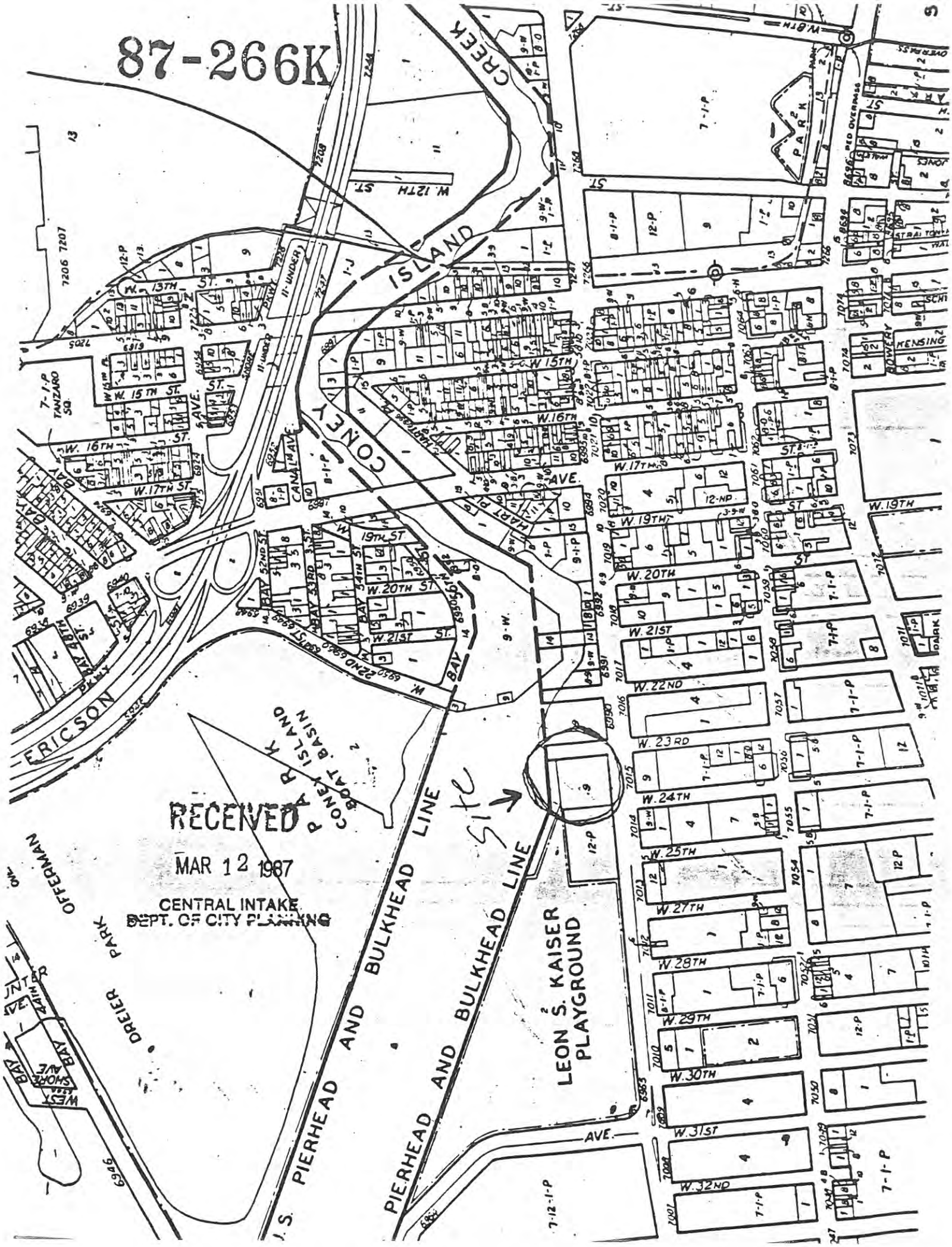
If no significant issues are raised, please check the box below, sign and return to Room 2400, at 2 Lafayette Street, New York, New York 10007.

[ ] _____
Signature

_____
Name (Please print)

_____
Department or Division

87-266K



RECEIVED
MAR 12 1987
CENTRAL INTAKE
DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Coney Island Fire Station/Pumping Station

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2301 Neptune Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Brooklyn ___ vicinity of congressional district 014

state New York code 036 county Kings code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Department of General Services, James Capalino, Commissioner

street & number 1800 Municipal Building - 1 Centre Street

city, town New York ___ vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kings County Office of the City Register

street & number Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon Street

city, town Brooklyn state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

CONEY ISLAND PUMPING STATION
2301-2327 Neptune Avenue, Brooklyn

Redacted

This sleek Art Deco structure was built in 1937 by the City of New York to serve as a Fire Service Pumping Station. The lozenge plan and the wrap-around windows reflect the streamlined, modern influence which was popular in the Art Deco movement in the 1930's. Contrast is provided by the vertical treatment of the entrance. Bold stylized horses flank the entrance steps. This design was by the architectural firm of Irwin S. Chanin, a component of the noted Chanin Organization which was active in the construction of theaters, apartment buildings, including the Majestic and the Century on Central Park West, and the Chanin Building on East 42nd Street. The pumping station is no longer in use.