

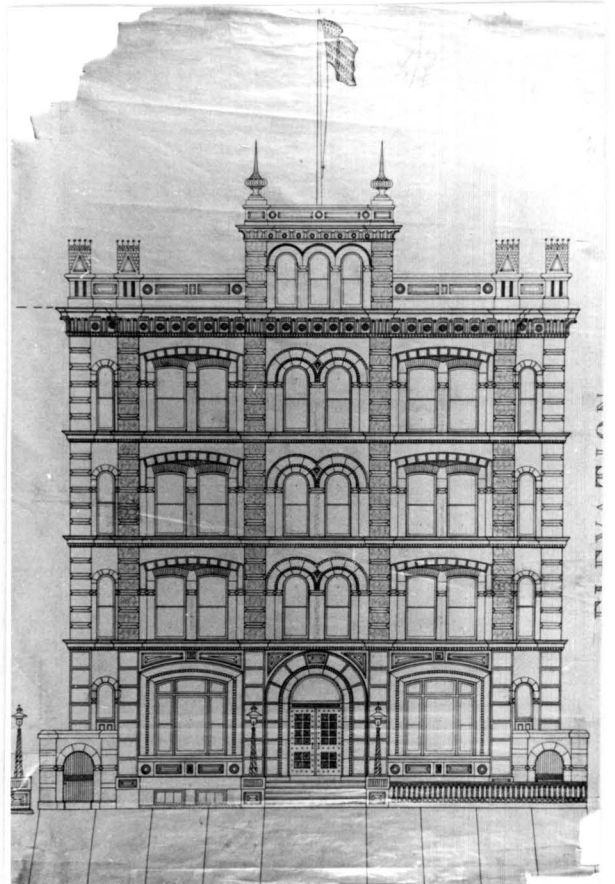
19th (originally 25th) POLICE PRECINCT STATION HOUSE, 153-155 East 67th Street, Manhattan.
Built 1886-87; Nathaniel D. Bush, Architect to the New York City Police Department.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1402, Lot 25.¹

On July 14, 1998, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House (Item No. 1). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Representatives of the New York City Police Department and Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts spoke in favor of designation. In addition, the Commission has received letters from Community Board 8 and the Historic Districts Council in support of designation.²

Summary

The 19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House, located on the north side of East 67th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, was built in 1886-87 to the design of Nathaniel D. Bush. Appointed Architect to the New York City Police Department in 1862, Bush was responsible for the design of station houses in the city until 1895. Bush's design for this station house, a significant departure from his earlier, simpler buildings, appears to have been influenced by skyscraper and commercial building design of the previous decade in New York City. The midblock station house, five stories high above a basement, was constructed with a cross-shaped plan with one-bay wings and is faced in red brick and gray granite with contrasting buff-colored stone detail. The design combines elements of the *Rundbogenstil* and the Renaissance Revival and neo-Grec styles. The three-bay main facade, articulated as a grid formed by continuous rusticated stone piers and intermediate cornices, successfully affirmed the authority of the Police Department in the rapidly expanding Upper East Side neighborhood. This station house has served the 19th Precinct since 1929. In 1990-92, the building was rehabilitated and received a new rear addition. Today, it is one of ten Bush-designed station houses in Manhattan known to survive, and is one of only two to continue serving its original function. In addition, it remains an integral component of its blockfront, consisting of four impressive nineteenth-century institutional buildings, all designated New York City Landmarks.



DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The New York City Police Department in the Nineteenth Century³

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the number of policemen in New York City remained quite small, despite the growth of the city and the accompanying problems and increase in crime. In 1845, a full-time professional "Day and Night Police" force was established by the state legislature through the Municipal Police Act; in 1853, the force was placed under a Board of Commissioners headed by the mayor. Policing, subject to the influence of local ward politics, was frequently susceptible to corruption. The police were also required to provide a variety of social services, including sheltering the homeless and attending to "drunkards." In 1857, the Republican-dominated New York State Legislature, intending to wrest control from the city's Democratic politicians, created the Metropolitan Police District (consisting of New York City and the surrounding counties), headed by a board of gubernatorial appointees. After Democrats regained the majority in the legislature in 1870, the Metropolitan Police District was abolished and the police in New York City returned to local (Tammany Hall) control. By this time, the size of the force had nearly doubled, but the New York City Police Department struggled to keep abreast of the increasing volume and the changed nature of crime that accompanied the phenomenal growth of the city's population. Due largely to the close connections between policing and politics, the department continued to be "a symbol of corruption in the late nineteenth century and for much of the twentieth."⁴ Slow to adopt new methods of communication, the New York police force lagged far behind other cities, and adequate police coverage was thus dependent upon a heavy concentration of police station houses throughout the city.

Nineteenth-Century Police Station Houses in New York City⁵

The Municipal Police Act of 1844 divided New York into police precincts according to ward boundaries, and required that each precinct be furnished with a station house. The Metropolitan Police Act of 1857 also required that a suitable station house be furnished for each precinct. The police station house of the mid- and late-nineteenth century served a variety of functions. The office of the captain and the sergeant's desk were located on the first floor, with sleeping accommodations

provided on the upper floors for the patrolmen who customarily worked long shifts. Each precinct had a small cell block, as well as (after 1857) lodging rooms for the homeless. (In 1896, Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt removed the responsibility of housing the homeless from the police.) As the use of horse-drawn patrol wagons became more common in the latter part of the century, the stable became a standard component of the police station complex.

Most early Manhattan station houses were located in leased buildings, including former residential structures, that were adapted by the city to meet basic departmental needs. Around 1854, Chief of Police George W. Matsell complained to the mayor of

*the inadequate accommodations of the station houses, their unsanitary condition and general dilapidation, [so that] an inspection and report of the various station houses were caused to be made, from which it appears that the necessity for reform and improvement was urgent. Chief Matsell, in view of these facts, suggested that two or three eminent architects should be invited to draw plans for a model station house, and that thereafter all station houses be required to be built according to the plan adopted.*⁶

Although no immediate such action was taken toward a model station house design, an Architect to the New York City Police Department, Nathaniel D. Bush, was appointed in 1862. The *Annual Report* of the Metropolitan Police Board that year further commented on the sorry state of police buildings:

When the station houses of New York and Brooklyn . . . were transferred to the Board of Police, many were so out of repair as to be unfit habitations; others were so limited in size, that policemen after serving their tours of duty on post were compelled to occupy beds that had just been vacated by their companions. Several of the stations were designated pest-houses by the police surgeons, so fruitful were they of disease. The cellars of the station-houses were divided into cells for prisoners and lodging rooms for the houseless poor. The latter were crowded nightly to their utmost capacity, and so defective was the ventilation, that the stench from these rooms

*poisoned the atmosphere of the whole building.*⁷

The Police Department began a concerted effort in the 1860s to secure or build permanent station houses, to renovate existing facilities, to improve health conditions, and to separate prisons and lodging houses from the main buildings by locating them in the rear. One historian of the police department noted, however, that "the city could never keep pace with its geographical expansion and the rate of obsolescence of older buildings. . . Even though the need was often expressed, New York was behind such cities as Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Boston in providing accommodations for the police."⁸ Overcrowding of patrolmen's quarters and prisons, unsanitary conditions, and adequate ventilation were continual problems in the station houses to the end of the century.

Nathaniel D. Bush: Architect to the N.Y.C. Police Department⁹

Little is known of the background of Nathaniel D. Bush (c. 1821-1897), though he was born in New York State and moved to Brooklyn around 1867. He was appointed Architect to the New York City Police Department in 1862, and became a detective sergeant in the department's detective squad in March 1876. Bush retired from the force in June 1887, apparently the result of the Police Board of Commissioners' enforcement of the policy that all men on the force over the age of sixty must retire. Bush moved to Nyack, N.Y., but returned to Brooklyn by 1894, and continued to be listed in Brooklyn directories as an architect. He was the architect for New York City's police station houses until April 1895, when the *New York Times* ran a notice that Bush had "resigned because age has unfitted him to perform his duties properly."¹⁰ After that, the new police commission under Roosevelt solicited designs from many architects. (That of John DuFais for the new 9th Police Precinct Station House (1896-97), 133-137 Charles Street, was the first to be selected under this system.) Bush was buried in Highland Mills, Orange County, N.Y.

Over the course of three decades, Bush had a significant impact on police station house design in New York City. An observer noted in 1872 that "the new [Bush-designed station house] buildings are models of their kind, and the old ones are being improved as rapidly as possible."¹¹ From his office in police headquarters at 300 Mulberry Street, Bush had "built, reconstructed or repaired" more than twenty police structures by 1885, when Police

Department historian Augustine E. Costello wrote that Bush had

*found the Police station houses in a very crude condition. But little had been done in the line of "modern improvements," and they had been run up, so to speak, to meet pressing emergencies, and without much, if any, regard for the comfort of the men, or the sanitary or architectural advantage of the houses. Mr Bush went to work at once with characteristic energy, and in a few years our station houses began to put on very different appearances. The old ones were repaired and remodeled, and new ones designed; and thus the work went on until to-day these station houses are models for all others over the United States.*¹²

Bush's earlier designs incorporated simplified versions of several contemporary historical styles, mostly the Italianate, Second Empire, and Renaissance Revival. The earliest known extant building by Bush is the 18th Police Precinct Station House (1864-65), 325-327 East 22nd Street, built to replace one at 163 East 22nd Street that had been destroyed by a crowd during the Draft Riots of July 1863. Others of the ten known surviving Bush-designed station houses in Manhattan include those for: the 3rd Precinct (1868, conversion of an 1850s residence), 160 Chambers Street; 5th Precinct (1868), 19-21 Leonard Street (included in the TriBeCa West Historic District); the 10th Precinct (1868), Essex Market, 105-107 [originally 87-89] Eldridge Street; the 14th Precinct (1870-71), 205-207 Mulberry Street; the 32nd Precinct (1871-72), 1854 Amsterdam Avenue (a designated New York City Landmark); and the 6th Precinct (1881-82), 19-21 Elizabeth Street. Bush's later station house designs, after the late 1870s, began to depart from his earlier, simpler ones and incorporated elements of the *Rundbogenstil* and the Renaissance Revival and neo-Grec styles. Bush's most significant design departure was for the 25th Police Precinct Station House (1886-87), 153-155 East 67th Street. The Police Department employed this design as a general prototype for at least four later station houses, including those (also extant) for the 28th Precinct (1892-93), 177-179 East 104th Street (a designated New York City Landmark); and the 8th Precinct (1893-94, altered), 194 Sixth Avenue [originally 24-26 MacDougal Street].

Only two of Bush's station house buildings remain in police use today, the 25th (now 19th) Police Precinct Station House, and the 6th (now 5th)

Police Precinct Station House, 19-21 Elizabeth Street.¹³

The 28th Police Precinct on the Upper East Side¹⁴

As Manhattan's population pushed northward into the Upper East Side in the nineteenth century, the district, though it was still relatively sparsely settled, needed a police station house. In 1852, a modest four-story brick-clad station house for the 19th Precinct was built at 220 East 59th Street. After 1878, with the construction of a new station house at 163 East 51st Street, the 1852 building served the 28th Police Precinct. Costello characterized the diverse nature of the 28th Precinct (the jurisdiction extended from Central Park to the East River, and from East 58th Street to East 79th Street, as well as Blackwell's Island) in 1885:

*The Twenty-eighth Precinct has within its wing some important charitable, social, and public institutions. There are the Mount Sinai, Hahnemann and Presbyterian Hospitals, the Foundling Asylum, the Lenox Library, the Normal College, the Seventh Regiment Armory, the Liederkrantz and Arion buildings, the Third Avenue Railroad Depot, Terrace Garden, Jones' Woods, and other places of summer recreation, the repair shops of the Second Avenue Elevated Railroad, and the American Institute building. East of Third Avenue the population is mixed and troublesome, and west of it the citizens range from respectable to wealthy, and the dwellings are those of the middle class to millionaires, especially along Fifth Avenue.*¹⁵

Other neighborhood institutions included Grammar School No. 76, the German Hospital, the Institution for the Improved Instruction of Deaf Mutes, the Ladies Home Society of the Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Home, the Home for the Aged Poor, the Colored Home and Hospital, the Union Theological Seminary, and St. Vincent Ferrar Church and Convent. Describing the need for a new police station house in the area in 1885, the *New York Times* reported that

it would be hard to find another place in the city where [it is] so much needed. The neighborhood is a constant wonder to visitors to New-York because of the great group of public institutions -- medical, charitable, and educational -- that are built within a stone's throw of one another. . . A greater contrast of social life than is

*presented between the eastern and western portions of this precinct... can hardly be imagined. . . the streets of the eastern part of the precinct are infested with gangs of the worst ruffians in the city.*¹⁶

Newly-elected mayor Franklin Edson had called in 1883 for new police station houses to replace inadequate ones, and wealthy residents of the 28th Precinct petitioned the mayor to furnish the precinct with more patrolmen. A police commission study concluded that the existing station house would be unable to absorb additional personnel and that the station house's location on 59th Street, at the southern edge of the precinct, made it difficult to provide consistent police coverage. Costello noted in 1885 that "although it has a separate prison it is the unhealthiest and most antiquated structure in the city."¹⁷ For a brief period, additional space was leased in an adjacent frame structure. By the mid-1880s, however, the Police Department had decided, after considering several sites, to build a new station house on a lot on East 67th Street, between Lexington and Third Avenues, that was both city-owned and centrally-located.¹⁸ The lot to the east had been occupied by Engine Company No. 39 since 1875.

The 25th Police Precinct Station House¹⁹

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment appropriated \$70,000 for the police station house project. Costello reported in 1885 that Nathaniel Bush "is now engaged on plans for the new Twenty-eighth Precinct Station House,"²⁰ and that "in a few months a magnificent station house for this command is to be built on the north side of Sixty-seventh Street," with a separate prison, at a cost to exceed \$80,000.²¹ The *New York Times* opined in September 1885 that Bush

*put on paper a station house about as much superior to anything of the kind now in the city. . . but the trouble was that no one would build the new station house for the sum appropriated. In view of the rapidity with which the population of the precinct is increasing and the great amount of territory to be covered, the Police Commissioners considered it unwise to modify the plans. They decided to wait for more money and put up a building that would meet the necessities of the district for years to come. The estimated cost of the structure is \$110,000. The Commissioners hope to get the increased appropriation...*²²

The design as reported was "four stories high, with a mansard roof, and will be built of brick with bluestone copings and terra cotta trimmings. The general plan of the interior arrangements will be much the same as in other city police stations. . . One novel feature of the new station house will be the prison connected with it... a separate building in the rear... [in which] the walls will be deadened with sheet iron" so that "the howlings of noisy drunken people locked in the cells shall not be heard."²³ The new police station house was not, however, built according to this design, and ended up being the second of two adjacent municipal projects built on East 67th Street during the 1880s. According to the *New York Times*, "though the project to put a new police station in the neighborhood was suggested first, the Fire Department took the lead in breaking ground and getting the masons at work... The Police Commissioners have not made as much headway..."²⁴ The New York City Fire Department Headquarters, at 157-159 East 67th Street, was constructed in 1884-86 to the design of N. LeBrun & Son.²⁵

Bush finally filed two applications in June 1886: one for a five-story station house, framed in timbers and iron beams, expected to cost about \$80,000, and another for a "one-story and basement brick prison and lodging house" to cost \$10,000. The Police Department's *Annual Report* for 1886 noted that the old 28th Precinct station house was in "fair [condition], sleeping rooms overcrowded. Has been condemned by Board [of Surgeons]. A new Station-house is being erected."²⁶ Construction was begun in December 1886, and completed in November 1887. The precinct's police force occupied the building on November 30. During construction of this station house, on January 1, 1887, New York City's police precincts were renumbered so that precinct numbers would generally run sequentially from south to north. This precinct became the 25th Precinct, and the southern boundary was extended one block southward to East 57th Street.

The *New York Times* remarked that "each new station house that is put up is better than any other, as faults of construction are avoided and all improvements of the time are introduced, so that the best station house in this city today is that of the Twenty-fifth Precinct."²⁷ The total cost was reported to be about \$83,000. Faced in red brick and gray granite with contrasting buff-colored stone detail, the midblock station house is five stories high above a basement. The building as originally constructed was cross-shaped in plan, with one-bay

wings. The three-bay main facade, articulated as a grid formed by continuous rusticated stone piers and intermediate cornices, successfully affirmed the authority of the Police Department in the rapidly expanding neighborhood. The first floor originally had a large office, the captain's and sergeant's rooms, and sitting rooms. The second through fourth stories held dormitories for the patrolmen, while the partial fifth story housed a gymnasium "which might be used as a hospital."²⁸ This appears to be a tower from the street, but extended the depth of the original building.

The design of the 25th Police Precinct Station House was a significant departure from the earlier, simpler Bush buildings. For this municipal structure, in a neighborhood already filled with many large brick-clad institutional buildings, Bush appears to have been inspired by New York skyscraper and commercial building design of the previous decade, combining elements of the *Rundbogenstil* and Renaissance Revival and neo-Grec styles. Bush's design for this building also parallels similar changes that took place in the design of public school buildings in New York City under David I. Stagg, Superintendent of Public School Buildings from 1872 to 1886, as well as the increased sophistication in the design of fire station houses by Napoleon LeBrun from 1879 to 1894. The period of the late 1870s and 1880s was one of stylistic experimentation. Designs for commercial, office, and municipal buildings in New York City incorporated diverse influences, which also included the Queen Anne, Victorian Gothic, and Romanesque styles, and French rationalism, under the leadership of such architects as Richard M. Hunt and George B. Post. Bush may have been influenced by such examples as the Evening Post Building (1874-75, attributed to Thomas Stent, demolished), 204-210 Broadway, and the Morse Building (1878-80, Silliman & Farnsworth), 140 Nassau Street.²⁹ As observed in 1881 by critic Montgomery Schuyler, "the architects of the present generation found commercial New York an imitation of marble, either in cast-iron or in an actual veneer of white limestone. They are likely to leave it in brick. . . Whatever of interest has since been done in business buildings has been done in baked clay....,"³⁰ a trend seen in such significant brick-clad office structures as the Boreel, Western Union, Tribune, Temple Court, and Potter Buildings.³¹ These buildings employed sandstone, brownstone, or terra-cotta ornament in pleasant juxtaposition with the red brick.

The 25th Police Precinct Station House served as a general prototype for the Police Department in at least four later station houses, those for the 30th Precinct (1889, demolished), 438 West 125th Street (22 LaSalle Place); 24th Precinct (1890-92, demolished), 150 West 68th Street; the 28th Precinct (1892-93), 177-179 East 104th Street; and, more loosely, the 8th Precinct (1893-94, altered), 194 Sixth Avenue.

Later History ³²

A few years after the construction of the 25th Police Precinct Station House and the adjacent Fire Department headquarters, the blockfront was joined by two other significant institutional buildings: the Mt. Sinai Dispensary (1889-90, Buchman & Deisler and Brunner & Tryon), 149-151 East 67th Street, and Congregation Zichron Ephraim (now Park East Synagogue)(1889-90, Schneider & Herter), 163 East 67th Street, now both designated New York City Landmarks. These four buildings are a unique ensemble of distinctive late nineteenth-century institutional architecture in New York City. This police precinct remained the 25th Precinct until it was re-numbered the 31st Precinct in 1908, and then in 1924 became the 10A Precinct. In 1929, it became the 19th Precinct, and it has operated under that designation to this day.

During the early 1970s, the city proposed to demolish the 19th Police Precinct Station House and the adjacent firehouse for the construction of new facilities for each, as part of the planned expansion of Hunter College designed by Ulrich Franzen & Associates. In 1974, the jail structure at the rear of the police station house was demolished. The Landmarks Preservation Commission designated as New York City Landmarks the four adjacent nineteenth-century institutional buildings on the block, including the 19th Police Precinct Station House, in January 1980. Although the Board of Estimate overturned the designation of the fire and police station houses in June 1980, the various agencies involved agreed to meet to discuss alternative strategies to demolition. Franzen proposed demolishing only the rear portions of the two buildings for the construction of a new structure, and restoring the front portions of the old buildings. The Hunter project (completed in 1986) was made separate from the fire and police departments project, and a scheme was approved that preserved the fronts of both structures while constructing a new combined facility behind them. This was executed in 1990-92 by the [Carl] Stein Partnership, with structural engineer Robert Silman

Associates, under the direction of the Department of General Services.

The police station house, found to be in good condition, was cleaned and received a fiberglass replica of its original metal cornice, a new entrance porch with handicapped access ramp, and a driveway ramp leading to the basement. The fire station building's facade was completely restored, including cast-stone replacements for its greatly deteriorated brownstone. Although the firehouse still serves its original function, the upper floors are now connected to, and used by, the 19th Police Precinct, linked by a five-story gray granite structure set back thirty feet from the sidewalk. Originally the site of an alley between the structures, this addition incorporates a new apparatus bay for Fire Department vehicles. The "Fire Engine Company 39 and Ladder Company 16 Station House" was designated a New York City Landmark in June 1998. Despite the linking of the police and fire station houses through the new addition, the division of the original tax lots has been maintained.

Description

The midblock station house, faced in red brick and gray granite with contrasting buff-colored stone detail, is five stories high above a basement. The building as originally constructed was cross-shaped in plan, with one-bay wings. The three-bay main facade is articulated as a grid formed by continuous rusticated stone piers and intermediate cornices. All windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash (replacements of the originals), painted blue. The rear portion of the building was demolished, with an addition completed in 1990-92.

Base The first story of the main facade is entirely clad in gray granite. The central entrance has a broad round-arched surround of polished granite enclosing a paneled reveal, large rope molding, original wood paneled doors (the upper panels were changed to glass, and the doors now open outward instead of inward), and a transom. Large bracketed wall sconces (post-1920) and bronze plaques bearing the dates "1887" and "1991," mounted on the surround, flank the entrance. Large, segmental-arched window surrounds in the outer bays contain tripartite windows with rope-molding mullions and transoms, set above and below spandrel panels.

Entrance Porch During the 1990-92 renovation of the building, the current entrance porch was constructed. It consists of a low polished gray-and-pink granite wall surmounted by an iron railing; concrete paving; steps at both ends, with metal railings; and a handicapped access ramp leading to

the porch, with metal railings, along the eastern wall. The entrance was originally reached by steps flanked by cheek walls holding pole lamps (the face of each cheek wall has been incorporated into the current porch); an areaway originally flanked the entrance steps, fronted with a balustrade (probably cast iron, later replaced by wrought-iron railings, which were also placed on the cheek walls). The basement level originally had two exposed windows on each side of the entrance (these have been covered: on the east by the current porch, on the west by brick fill). The building was originally flanked by round-arched, brick-and-stone gateways with iron gates; these have been removed.

Upper Section The upper section is clad in red brick with buff sandstone and brownstone trim. The second through fourth stories have paired windows set in round-arched openings below stone arches in the center bay, and paired segmental-arched windows set within larger segmental stone arches in the outer bays. A flagpole has been placed in the central bay of the second floor (previously a flagpole was in the center bay of the third floor). A surveillance camera has been placed in the center bay of the fourth story. The fourth story is capped by a bracketed neo-Grec style cornice with stylized rope moldings and rosettes (originally of galvanized metal, it was replicated in fiberglass in the 1990-92 renovation and painted a mustard color). The fifth story, only the width of the central bay, contains

three round-arched windows and is capped by a similar bracketed cornice.³³

East and West Walls/Wings The brick-clad side walls contain actual and blind fenestration capped by stone segmental arches, linked by bandcourses. The intermediate cornices on the main facade continue on each side. The brick-clad south face of the wing on each side has slender round-arched windows below stone arches, and is edged with stone piers similar to those on the main facade. During the installation of a driveway ramp leading to the basement, the lower portion (basement and first story) of the west wing was removed, and the remaining upper portion edged at the bottom with granite; the east wall of the ramp is clad in brick. Historic fire escapes with curved wrought-iron balconies, linking the corners of the side and wing walls on the second through fourth stories, have been removed.

Rear Addition A rear addition, faced in gray granite and built in 1990-92, replaced the rear portion of the original building. It is linked to the fire station house next door to the east, and to the east party wall of the building to the west.

Report prepared by
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NOTES

1. The original tax lot has been maintained, despite the building's being linked to the adjacent fire station house through a new addition.
2. This building was previously designated a New York City Landmark on January 29, 1980, but the designation was subsequently overturned by the Board of Estimate in June 1980.
3. "Police," *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, Kenneth T. Jackson, ed. (New Haven: Yale Univ. Pr., 1995), 910-912; Moses King, *King's Handbook of New York* (N.Y.: Moses King, 1893), 523-529; James F. Richardson, *The New York Police: Colonial Times to 1901* (N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1970).
4. "Police," 912.
5. Richardson; Augustine E. Costello, *Our Police Protectors: History of the New York Police from the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (N.Y.: A.E. Costello, 1885); LPC, *19th Police Precinct [Brooklyn] Station House and Stable Designation Report* (LP-1703)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1993), prepared by Betsy Bradley; New York State, Bd. of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, *Annual Report* (1862-1865).
6. Costello, 133.

7. NYS, BCMP, *Annual Report* (1862), 3.
8. Richardson, 169.
9. Costello; LPC, architects files, and *32nd Police Precinct Station House Designation Report* (LP-1389)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1986), prepared by Nancy Goeschel; *Long Island, N.Y., 1870 Census Index* (Bountiful, Utah: Precision Indexing, 1989), 196; NYC Police Dept., *Annual Report* (1885-1898); "More Retirements," *New York Times* [hereafter *NYT*], Mar. 30, 1887, 8; "Their Active Duty Over," *NYT*, June 25, 1887, 8; *Brooklyn City Directory* (1894-1899); N.D. Bush, Brooklyn Death Certificate No. 17594 (Oct. 29, 1897); Bush obit. listing, *New-York Daily Tribune*, Oct. 30, 1897, 7; "New Police Stations in New York," *Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 7, 1895, 845; Robinson, *Atlas of the City of New York and Part of the Bronx* (1885); Sanborn, *Manhattan Land Book* (1997-98).
10. "Police Architect Bush Resigns," *NYT*, Apr. 24, 1895, 9. Thanks to John Reilly, retired policeman, for finding this article.
11. James D. McCabe, Jr., *Lights and Shadows of New York Life; or the Sights and Sensations of the Great City* (N.Y.: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1970), reprint of 1872 edition, 179.
12. Costello, 452-453.
13. Among the now-demolished station houses designed or "re-built" by Bush were those for: the 8th Precinct (1868), 128 Prince Street; the 31st Precinct (1869), 134 [originally 434] West 100th Street; the 29th Precinct (1869), 137-139 West 30th Street; the 4th Precinct (1870), 9-11 Oak Street; the 27th Precinct (1870), 9 Church Street; the 20th Precinct (1870), 434-436 West 37th Street; the 12th Precinct (1870), 146-148 East 126th Street; the 23rd Precinct (1873), 432-434 East 88th Street; the 19th Precinct (1877), 163 East 51st Street; the 30th Precinct (1879), 270 West 126th Street; the First Precinct (1884), Old Slip; the 30th Precinct (1889), 438 West 125th Street (22 LaSalle Place); and the 24th Precinct (1890-92), 150 West 68th Street.
14. LPC, *Fire Engine Co. 39 and Ladder Co. 16 Station House Designation Report* (LP-1988)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1998), prepared by Matthew A. Postal; Robinson; "Two Model Structures," *NYT*, Sept. 26, 1885, 8; Costello.
15. Costello, 384. The Seventh Regiment Armory (1877-81, Charles W. Clinton) is a designated New York City Landmark and Interior Landmark.
16. *NYT*, Sept. 26, 1885, 8.
17. Costello, 381.
18. Since the late seventeenth century, this portion of East 67th Street had been publicly owned. The Common Council had considered leasing the so-called "Dove Lots" for private development in 1806, but by 1813 the blocks between Third and Fifth Avenues, and from East 66th to 68th Streets, had been set aside as a square named after Alexander Hamilton, former Secretary of the Treasury. By 1869, however, the square was "discontinued" and streets were extended through the site. I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909* (N.Y.: Robert H. Dodd, 1928).
19. LPC, *Nineteenth Police Precinct Station House Designation Report* (LP-1054)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1980), prepared by Barry Bergdoll; NYC, Dept. of Buildings, Manhattan, Plans, Permits and Dockets (NB 1131-1886 and NB 1132-1886); "Buildings Projected," *Real Estate Record & Guide*, June 26, 1886, 848; NYC Police Dept., *Annual Report* (1886-87) and original drawing of the 25th Police Precinct Station House (N.D. Bush, c. 1886); "Changing Police Precincts," *NYT*, Dec. 11, 1886, 3.
20. Costello, 452.
21. Costello, 381.
22. *NYT*, Sept. 26, 1885, 8.
23. *Ibid.*

24. Ibid.
25. This remained the Fire Department headquarters to 1914.
26. NYC Police Dept., *Annual Report* (1886), 24.
27. "The Finest Station House," *NYT*, Nov. 30, 1887, 8.
28. Ibid.
29. See: Sarah B. Landau and Carl Condit, *Rise of the New York Skyscraper, 1865-1913* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Pr., 1996).
30. Montgomery Schuyler, "Recent Building in New York II. Commercial Buildings," *American Architect & Building News*, Apr. 16, 1881, 183.
31. The Boreel, Western Union, and Tribune Buildings were demolished. Temple Court (1881-83, Silliman & Farnsworth), 3-9 Beekman Street, and the Potter Building (1883-86, N.G. Starkweather), 35-38 Park Row, are designated New York City Landmarks.
32. Information on the precinct numbers was supplied by John Reilly. LPC, Postal; NYC, Buildings Dept.; LPC (1974 and 1980) and NYC Buildings Dept. (1982) memoranda; "Victorian Redux: Rehab on 67th," *NYT*, Sept. 29, 1985, sec. 8, 1; Lee Goff, "Rebuilding: The Combined Facility," *Building Renovation* (Jan.-Feb. 1993), 40-45; Christopher Gray, "19th-Century Buildings That Still Make Statements," *NYT*, May 3, 1998, real est. sect., 7.
33. According to an original drawing, the building was designed to be surmounted by a parapet flanking the fifth story, with end finials at the corners and setbacks; the fifth story was also to be surmounted by a smaller parapet with large urn finials and a large central flagpole. According to a 1920 photograph, all of these elements (if built), except for the flagpole, had been removed; the flagpole was later removed.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

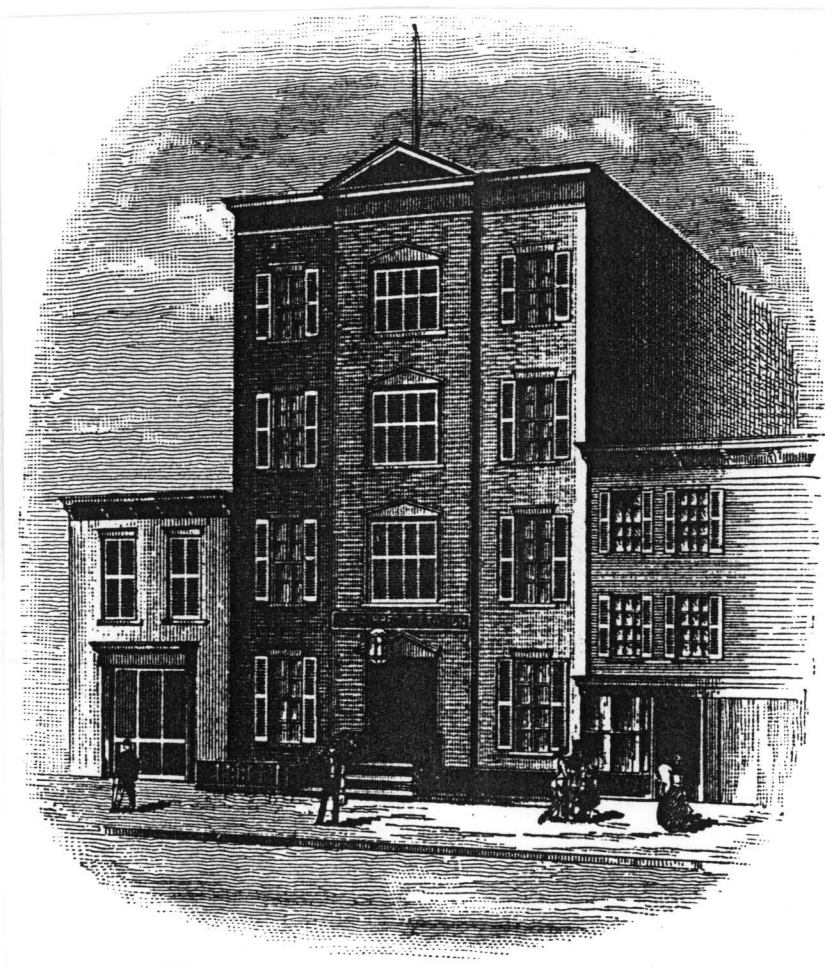
On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the 19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the 19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House was built in 1886-87 to the design of Nathaniel D. Bush, the Architect to the New York City Police Department responsible for the design of station houses in the city from 1862 until 1895; that Bush's design for this station house, a significant departure from his earlier, simpler buildings, appears to have been influenced by New York skyscraper and commercial building design of the previous decade, combining elements of the *Rundbogenstil* and the Renaissance Revival and neo-Grec styles; that, faced in red brick and gray granite with contrasting buff-colored stone detail, the main facade is articulated as a grid formed by continuous rusticated stone piers and intermediate cornices, and successfully affirmed the authority of the Police Department in the rapidly expanding Upper East Side neighborhood; that the Police Department employed this design as a general prototype for a number of later station houses; that this is one of ten Bush-designed station houses in Manhattan known to survive, and is one of only two to continue serving its original function, for the 19th Precinct since 1929; and that it remains an integral component of its blockfront, consisting of four impressive nineteenth-century institutional buildings, all designated New York City Landmarks.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the 19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House, 153-155 East 67th Street, Borough of Manhattan, and designates Manhattan Tax Map Block 1402, Lot 25, as its Landmark Site.



19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House, 153-155 East 67th Street
Photo: Carl Forster

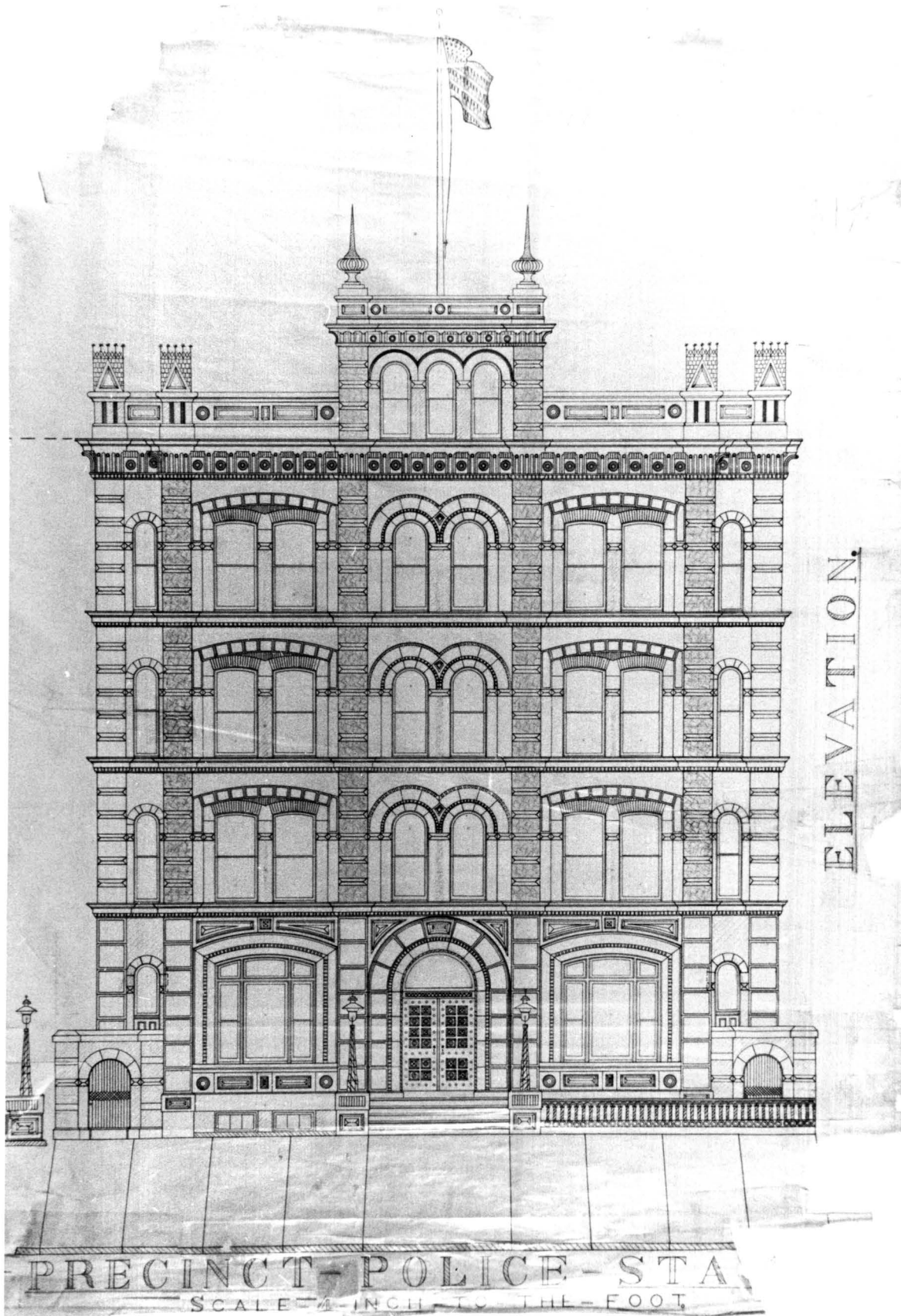


(upper) **Nathaniel D. Bush**

Source: Costello

(lower) **19th (later 28th) Police Precinct Station House** (1852), 220 East 59th Street

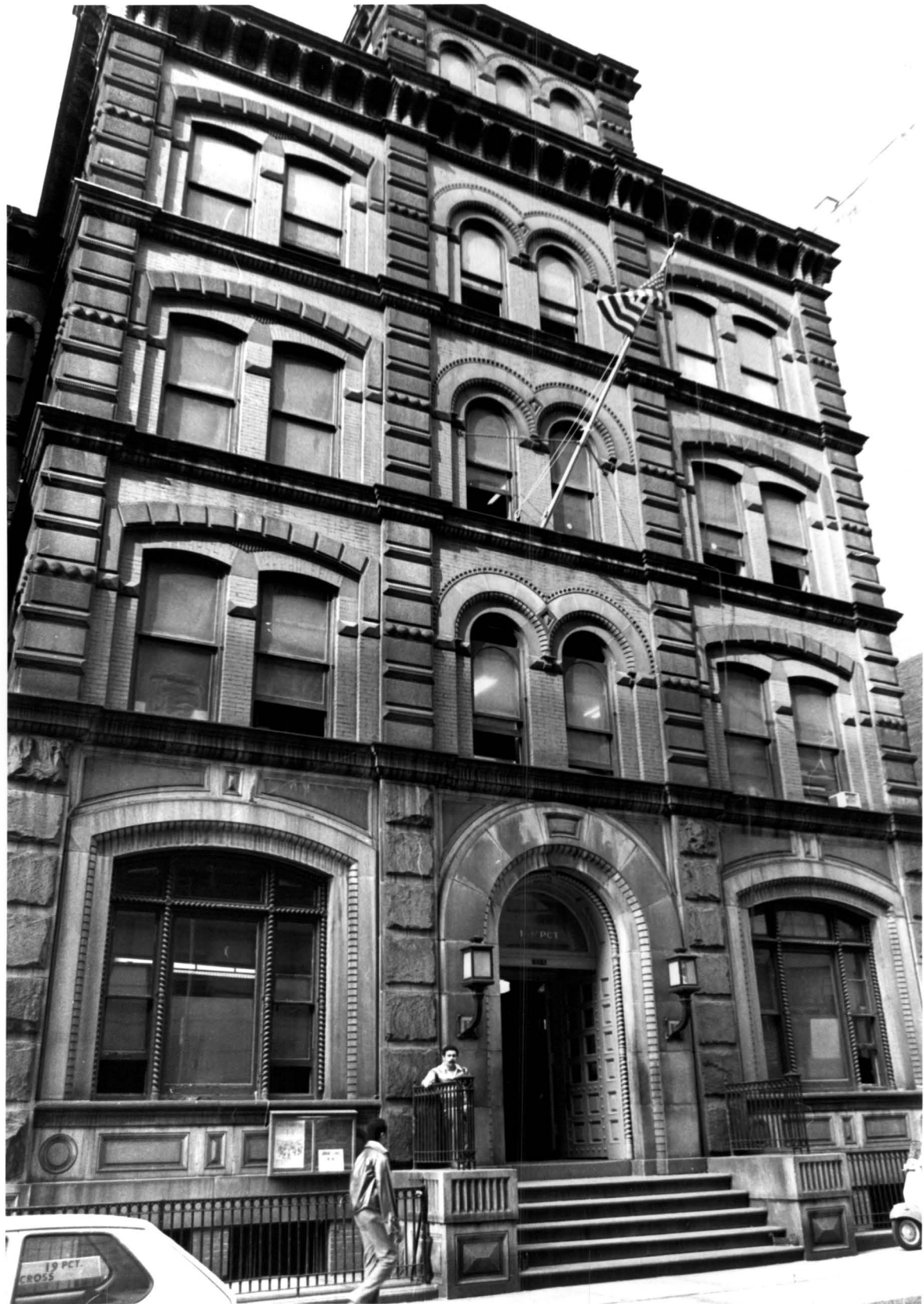
Source: Costello



Drawing of 25th Police Precinct Station House (1886-87, Nathaniel D. Bush), 153-155 West 67th Street



(left) **19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House**, 153-155 East 67th Street (c.1920)
(right) **N.Y.C. Fire Dept. Headquarters** (1884-86, N. LeBrun & Son), 157-159 East 67th Street
Source: Museum of the City of New York



19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House (1979)
Photo: I.P.C.



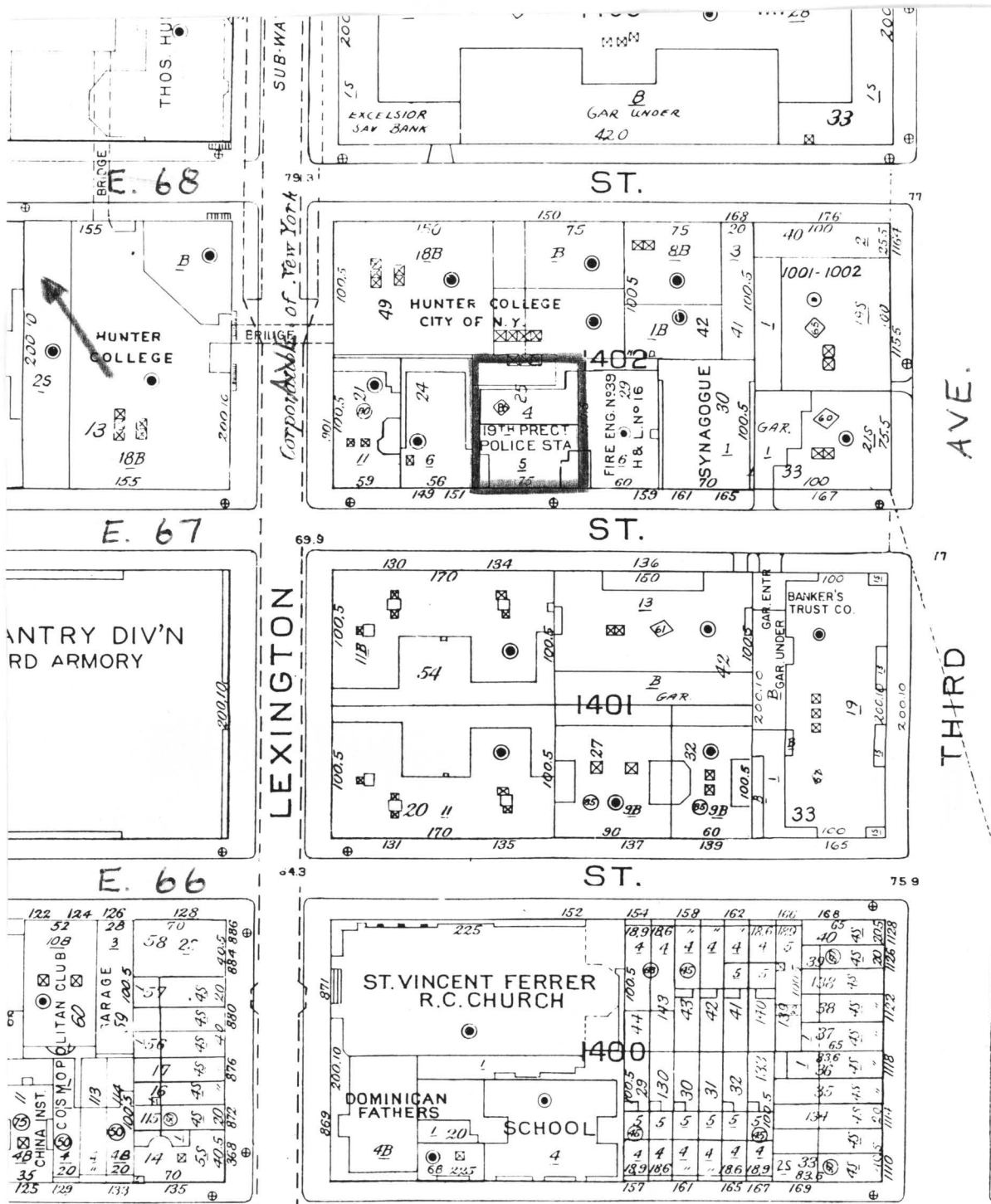
19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House (1985)
Photo: LPC



19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House
cornice details
Photos: Carl Forster



19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House
(upper) detail; (lower) base of building
Photos: Carl Forster



19th (originally 25th) Police Precinct Station House, 153-155 East 67th Street
 Source: Sanborn, *Manhattan Land Book* (1997-98), pl. 106

