Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 22, 2011, Designation List 440
LP-2429

ENGINEERS' CLUB BUILDING, 32 West 40th Street (aka 32-24 West 40th Street), Manhattan. Built 1905-07; Whitfield & King, architects.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 841, Lot 69.

On November 16, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Engineers' Club Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Public Hearing Item No. 1). One speaker, a representative of the Historic Districts Council, spoke in favor of the designation. There were no speakers in opposition to the designation.

Summary

The Engineers' Club was founded in 1888 at a time when professional engineering was becoming increasingly important to the industrial and economic development of the United States. While the city was well supplied with professional and trade associations related to engineering, the Engineers' Club was the first purely social organization founded in the United States for engineers or those connected to the field. Prominent members have included Andrew Carnegie, Herbert C. Hoover, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh, Cornelius Vanderbilt, H.H. Westinghouse, and Nikola Tesla. While the club originally leased space in Midtown Manhattan, it began to plan for a larger, purpose-built clubhouse around the turn of the century, acquiring land facing Bryant Park and the future home of the New York Public Library (both New York City Landmarks). Around the same time, industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie offered the sum of $1 million for a separate project - the creation of a joint headquarters for New York City's professional engineering clubs. In 1904, Carnegie increased the amount of his proffered gift to $1.5 million in order to incorporate the plans of the Engineers' Club. Ultimately, the decision was reached to erect two separate but related structures, allowing for a direct flow between them.

The design of the Engineers' Club building was determined by an architectural competition in which the young firm of Whitfield & King bested more established names such as Carrère & Hastings and Clinton & Russell. The 12-story Renaissance Revival style building, completed in 1907, featured a tripartite configuration consisting of a three-story base clad in white marble with prominent Corinthian pilasters, a seven-story red brick shaft embellished with marble quoins and molded window enframements, and a three-story capital capped by a deeply projecting modillioned cornice. An early example of the high-rise clubhouse building type, the Engineers' Club building also featured 66 sleeping rooms in addition to its public and social spaces.

The Engineers' Club occupied the West 40th Street building until 1979, at which point the structure was converted into residential apartments. Today, the building looks almost exactly as it did more than a century ago, standing as an architectural reminder of the emergence of New York State as the engineering center of the country and of the United States as an industrial and economic power. As the last remaining club building on the block, it is also a visual reminder of the prominence of the social club and of the bachelor apartment at the turn of the 20th century.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

West 40th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues[1]

At the turn of the 20th century, West 40th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, the future site of the Engineers' Club building, was at the crossroads of several rapidly-evolving Midtown neighborhoods. In the late 1800s, Fifth Avenue between 34th and 59th Streets had been established as one of the most fashionable addresses in Manhattan, and residential rowhouses lined the blocks to the east and to the west. By 1900, however, various real estate forces were coalescing to permanently alter the character of this part of Manhattan. Construction of Grand Central Terminal (1903-13, a designated New York City Landmark) at East 42nd Street between Madison and Lexington Avenues and the decking of the railroad tracks running north from the station accelerated the commercialization of eastern Midtown and spurred the development of an important hotel and business district. With respect to the blocks surrounding the future site of the Engineer's Club building, considered the northwest periphery of the Murray Hill neighborhood, the construction of or conversion of private residences into exclusive retail shops, restaurants and office buildings, was already well underway by the close of the century.

Midtown Manhattan, west of Fifth Avenue, was being similarly transformed at the turn of the 20th century. A growing transportation hub at Herald Square (at the intersection of 34th Street, Broadway and Sixth Avenue), featured cross-town streetcars, the Sixth Avenue Elevated, and the Hudson Tubes to New Jersey, and helped secure this area's continued commercial development. The successful openings of two department stores at Herald Square, Saks & Co. in 1900 followed by R.H. Macy's in 1901-02, anchored a new shopping district that encouraged similar businesses to relocate northwards from Madison Square. The construction of restaurants and hotels to meet shoppers' needs logically followed. The opening of Pennsylvania Station at 34th Street and Seventh Avenue in 1910 precipitated even higher demand for realty in the blocks surrounding the station, which had become known as the 'Pennsylvania terminal loft zone' due to the large number of plans filed for manufacturing and business structures.

In 1899, the south side of West 40th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues was still lined with the four-story rowhouses that had been built in the mid-century. In 1903, the *New York Times* cited how commercial forces were "already being felt in the side streets" off of Fifth Avenue by "the recent leasing for business purposes" of houses in the area.[2] Many of the residences that were not converted for commercial use were demolished for the construction of new, larger commercial structures. In 1900-01, several smaller lots were combined for the construction of Bryant Park Studios on the southeast corner of West 40th Street and Sixth Avenue, across from Bryant Park. On the southwest corner of West 40th Street and Fifth Avenue, opposite the future home of the New York Public Library (1898-1911), the Knox Building (a designated New York City Landmark) was built in 1901-02 as the headquarters of the Knox Hat Company. In 1902, the Republican Club was erected at 54 West 40th Street, the first club building to go up on the block. Another club, the New York Club at 18-22 West 40th Street, was erected shortly thereafter – the same year as the Engineers' Club building. By the end of the 1920s, virtually no traces of the one-time residential character of the block remained.

Early History of Clubhouses and Bachelor Apartments in New York City[3]

Social clubs for men had been organized in New York City since the 1830s. Largely modeled after those in London, the clubs were formed along lines such as social class, politics, ethnicity, business, sports, or other shared interests.[4] New York City has also been host to a large variety of professional clubs, the Union Club for the law (1836), Lambs Club for the theater

(1874), and Friars Club for comedians (1904) being among the most prominent. By the end of the 19th century, New York had over 100 men's clubs (second only to London), many catering particularly to young bachelors and providing alternative options for living, dining and drinking, and socializing outside of boardinghouses or restaurants.

Initially, most clubs were established in former rowhouses and mansions, in areas such as Madison Square and Gramercy Park. In the late 19th century, a men's clubhouse district developed in Midtown Manhattan, most highly concentrated along West 43rd and 44th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, but extending at least as far north as 54th Street and down into the 20s. The Union League Club, constructed in 1881 at Fifth Avenue and 39th Street (demolished) is considered the city's first purpose-built clubhouse. Others followed shortly thereafter, including the Berkeley Athletic Club at 23 West 44th Street (1890, demolished), and the Harvard Club at 27 West 44th Street (1893-94, demolished). As late as the early 1890s, however, there was not a specific architectural style or type associated with clubhouse architecture in New York.

A development that paralleled the emergence of the clubhouse in New York was the emergence of a distinct residential building type for men: the bachelor apartment hotel, or "bachelor flats." Throughout the 19th century, the population of bachelors living in New York was rising with the growth and industrialization of the city during the 19th century, which was accompanied by a workforce consisting of large numbers of unmarried men.[5] Despite their large numbers, housing options for middle-class unmarried men in New York were severely limited. As rowhouses and better hotels were expensive, bachelors were forced to find quarters in boarding or rooming houses (usually converted rowhouses) with less privacy or security, in less-than-desirable rooms in cheaper hotels or apartment buildings, or in such facilities as clubs and YMCAs. The apartment hotel provided an alternative that could accommodate unmarried men along with couples, families, and widows, but this was considered awkward as single men were seen as threatening to married couples and traditional gender roles.[6]

Between 1880 and 1915, the real estate market began to catch up with demand and hundreds of bachelor apartment hotels were erected. By 1905, buildings of this type could be found mostly along Fifth Avenue south of Central Park, on the adjacent cross streets, on Broadway, and in other locations south to 23rd Street. Many of the purpose-built social and professional clubs erected around this time also began to include proper accommodations for bachelors. The Yale Club of New York building (a designated New York City Landmark), for example, constructed in 1900-01, devoted more than half of its floors to bachelor apartments. Similarly, the central seven stories of the Engineers' Club building were designed to accommodate 66 bachelor apartments that could be used either in combination as a suite, or independently.[7]

<u>Early History of Professional Engineering and of the Engineers' Club</u>[8]

New York State is often credited as the birthplace of professional engineering within the United States, the growth and development of which was a significant factor in the rise of the country as a major industrial and economic power during the 19th century. New York State was home to the first school in the country to offer engineering as an academic subject (civil engineering at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, beginning in 1801), and also to the first university to offer a degree in engineering (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, beginning in 1838). Moreover, the number and complexity of both private and public works projects throughout the state during the 19th century, including construction of the Erie Canal

(1817-25) and the Croton Aqueduct system (1837-1842), relied heavily on advancements in the engineering fields – from civil engineering, commonly associated with public works projects, to those branches more allied with industry, such as mining, mechanical or electrical engineering. Construction of the Erie Canal, alone, has been cited as responsible for doubling the number of engineers in the country.[9] New York City's own emergence as a grand metropolis during this era was also dependent on the engineering innovations of the era, culminating in achievements such as the Brooklyn Bridge, the extensive subway system, and the city's myriad towering skyscrapers.[10]

By the mid-19th century, American engineers had begun to organize professionally, with the principal aim of educating peers by means of publications and conferences.[11] The first such organization, the Association of Civil Engineers (ASCE) was formed in 1852 in New York City. Other emerging disciplines followed with their own professional organizations, including the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineering (AIME), organized in 1871, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), organized in 1880, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE), organized in 1884, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), organized in 1908, and the Institute of Radio Engineers (AIRE), organized in 1912. Many of these organizations, including ASME, AIEE and AIRE, were also formed in New York City.

The Engineers' Club was organized in 1888 within the rooms of the ASCE clubhouse on East 23rd Street. While the city, by then, was well supplied with professional and trade associations related to engineering, the Engineers' Club was the first purely social organization founded in the United States for engineers or those connected to the field. As would be spoken by President Arthur T. Hadley of Yale at the 1907 opening exercises for the completed Engineers' Club building, "it is not enough to know the special sciences on which the practice of a profession is based. A man ought to have a clear conception of the public service which his profession can render, and the public duties that its members owe."[12]

The Engineers' Club formally opened its doors on April 27, 1889, at a building it leased at 10 West 29th Street. Among its founding members was President James A. Burden of the Burden Iron Works in Troy, New York, Vice Presidents Henry R. Towne of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company and James C. Bayles of the Spiral Weld Tube Company, Treasurer A.C. Rand of the Rand Rock Drill Company, and Secretary David Williams, publisher of the *Iron Age.* Though located in New York, the club was in no sense local, embracing members from "all the States of the Union, as well as Canada and Mexico."[13] Initially there were two classes of members – resident and non-resident – though both had the same privileges. Any candidate wishing to become a member of the club had to be proposed, seconded and endorsed by the other members of the club.

<u>The Planning of the Engineers' Club Building</u>[14]

Three years after its founding, the membership of the Engineers' Club totaled nearly 550 members.[15] Although the constitution of the organization limited total membership to 1,000 members, the club was growing rapidly, reaching 650 members by the close of 1896. In 1897, the club relocated to larger rented quarters at 374 Fifth Avenue but continued to swell in size, reaching 769 members by the close of 1898. Around this time, the club began to discuss plans to construct a purpose-built clubhouse to meet the demands of a steadily increasing membership. A survey was circulated to members in 1898 concerning the "advisability of taking up the matter of a new house."[16] Although there was unanimous agreement by the Board of Management in 1902

as to the desirability of the club "to have a house of its own," sufficient funds needed to be raised.[17] In 1903, the Engineers' Realty Company was formed and its stock made available for purchase by members of the Engineers' Club. Every member of the Engineers' Club was expected to subscribe in the company's stock.

By 1903, the Engineers' Club reached 1,000 members and had conclusively outgrown its Fifth Avenue quarters. That same year, enough of the Engineering Realty Company's stock had been sold to purchase an available site on West 40th Street. The site consisted of two adjacent tax lots at 32 and 34 West 40th Street, together measuring 50 feet wide by 100 feet deep. The site was reported in *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* as an ideal location overlooking both Bryant Park and the future home of the New York Public Library, already under construction.[18] In their annual report of 1903, the Board of Management of the Engineers' Club said of the lot:

> This location is the most desirable in the city of New York for a Club House. Fifth Avenue; the elevated railroad station; the station of the new underground road; the Broadway, Sixth Avenue, Forty-second street and Fourth Avenue surface railroads are all near the site. It is near the Theatre district and convenient to the New York Central Railroad Station, and near to the proposed station of the Pennsylvania Railroad at 33d Street, making it readily accessible to those arriving at either of those depots.[19]

At the turn of the 20th century, Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was one of the wealthiest men in the world. He had sold his holdings in the Carnegie Steel Company to the newly-formed U.S. Steel Corporation and consequently amassed a considerable fortune. Carnegie, by this time, was already known for his extensive philanthropic activities, the focus of which were largely within the realm of education.[20] In 1895, Carnegie was approached by W.D. Weaver of the AIEE about creating a joint headquarters for the city's numerous engineering societies.[21] Nothing came of this initial suggestion, and in 1903 the proposal was made again. By this time, Carnegie had already contributed to a library fund for the AIEE and had even spoken of "co-operation among engineers" at a dinner held by the organization in honor of the library's opening.[22] Carnegie, it seemed, had come to agree that the engineering disciplines needed to be better unified and that housing the independent clubs in a centralized home would help achieve this goal.

In early 1903, Carnegie offered the sum of $1 million for the purpose of providing a suitable professional building for the various engineering societies already centered in New York City.[23] As reported in the *New York Times*, Carnegie's objective was to make "New York a sort of intellectual engineering centre [sic], at least of the Western Hemisphere."[24] Carnegie, made aware of the existence of the Engineers' Club and its plans to construct a new club house at West 40th Street, declared the location to be wholly appropriate for a central engineering building. In order to incorporate the plans of the Engineers' Club, Carnegie increased the amount of his proffered gift to $1.5 million in 1904. He invited three of the largest professional clubs – AIEE, ASME and AIME – to participate alongside the Engineers' Club. Hoping to ensure the success of his enterprise, he made his gift contingent on the participation of each of the professional clubs, which had a combined, rapidly rising membership of approximately 9,000 members.[25] The chief opposition was expected to come from AIME, who expressed concerns that any appearance of localism might diminish the national standing of the organization.[26] AIME's fears were apparently overcome and in 1904 the professional groups formed the United Engineering Society. Soon thereafter, a joint Conference Committee was formed to carry the construction of

the proposed building through to completion. This committee consisted of 12 men, three from each of the aforementioned organizations, and was headed by William R. Ware, founder of the school of architecture at Columbia University.

Shortly after beginning its work, the committee determined that it would be too difficult to purchase the amount of land required to combine all of the social and technical requirements of the unified engineering organizations into one building. Instead, the decision was made to erect two separate structures – one for the Engineers' Club on the existing West 40th Street lot, and a second for the professional societies, to be located on West 39th Street. The completed buildings would abut one another at the rear, allowing for a direct flow between them.[27] A larger allotment of $1.05 million was allocated for the proposed building for the professional organizations, which would be known as the Engineering Societies' building, while the remaining $450,000 was assigned to the smaller Engineers' Club building.

In 1905, the Trustees of the Engineers' Club published a pamphlet for its members titled *The New Club House of the Engineers' Club: Being a Preliminary Description of the Plans and Details.* Alongside a color rendering of the proposed exterior and detailed plans of each of the building's 12 stories, the organization printed its anticipation that "the Engineers' Club will shortly be in the enjoyment of one of the finest and most luxurious clubhouses in the United States" and one that every member "can take individual and professional pride in."[28] The cornerstone of the building was laid in 1905 by Louise Whitfield Carnegie – Andrew Carnegie's wife and sister of one of the two architects. The new building opened its doors on April 25, 1907, despite "the delay of general contractors in completing their work, strikes, and other labor troubles."[29] In the end, the project far exceeded original cost estimates, with construction of the building alone, exclusive of the land or interior furnishings, costing approximately $550,000. In total, the project is said to have cost closer to $870,000, with Carnegie's grant covering only the initially promised $450,000.[30] Upon the opening of the building, the Board of Management of the Engineers' Club pronounced it to be "one of the most comfortable and convenient Club Houses in New York City, the center of American club life."[31]

The Architecture of the Engineers' Club Building[32]

As noted in *The American Architect and Building News* in 1907, the worldwide fame of the donor, coupled with the magnitude of the gift and the national character of the organizations involved, made the selection of an architect for the two proposed buildings a semi-public matter of "more than ordinary importance."[33] The selection process for the Engineers' Club and Engineering Societies' buildings took the form of a competition in which six well-known and established architects were invited to participate. Each was to be paid $1,000 for his submission, whether it was accepted or not. A number of other architects were also invited to present plans, though without compensation. Additionally, the competition was made open to any architect in New York City who had been in actual practice for two or more years under his own name, incentivized by cash prizes to be awarded to the four best submissions among this open class. All plans were to be submitted anonymously.

In July 1904, the Conference Committee examined 28 sets of plans for the two buildings, comprising more than 500 drawings. The award for the Engineers' Club building went to the firm of Whitfield & King, a young partnership who had, implausibly, been invited to participate as one of the six well-known and established firms, and who were selected over some of architecture's most renowned names at the time, including Carrère & Hastings and Clinton & Russell.[34] The award for the Engineering Societies' building went to the firm of Hale & Rogers,

with H.G. Morse as associate. Despite the measures purportedly taken to ensure an open and democratic selection process, it is difficult not to question the determinations – most notably, the fact that James Gable Hale, of Hale & Rogers, was the son of Edward Everett Hale, president of the Engineers' Club, while Henry D. Whitfield, of Whitfield & King, was Carnegie's own brother-in law.

In 1904, the *New York Times* reported on the winning designs, writing "it is doubtful if anywhere in the world there will be two buildings more perfectly fitted for their respective needs and more artistic in conception and execution than these two structures."[35] The article went on to describe the design for the Engineers' Club building as "sumptuous in the extreme," which is consistent with the notion that, while the buildings erected east of Fifth Avenue after the turn of the 20th century tended to exhibit a more subdued architectural and social atmosphere, those constructed west of Fifth Avenue were typically more exuberantly ornamented.[36] Upon completion in 1907, the 12-story Engineers' Club building featured an impressive three-story marble base with prominent Corinthian pilasters separating three round-arched windows and supporting an ornate frieze and cornice. The seven-story red brick shaft of the building featured marble quoins at its sides and marble trim surrounding its windows. A three-story capital was highlighted by an ornamental balcony, Ionic columns, round-arched windows, and a deeply projecting modillioned cornice.

While the Engineering Societies' building was designed to meet the professional requirements of the engineers who would occupy the space, the interior configuration of the Engineers' Club building was designed to meet the social needs of club members. The interior of the building (not part of this designation) featured a broad hallway and stairway leading to social rooms on the second and third stories.[37] The fourth through ninth stories contained 66 bedrooms, planned in such a way as to be used either in combination as a suite or separately. On the 11th story, the main dining room, or banquet hall, contained room for 300 and was accessible by means of a service bridge across the dumbbell-shaped building's east court.[38] Associated facilities, including two large private dining rooms, were divided among the 10th through 12th stories. A half-story penthouse located at the rear of the building while a garden occupied the front portion of the roof.[39] The tripartite exterior configuration of the main elevation of the Engineers' Club building is a direct reflection of each of these interior functions: the prominent exterior columns of the base enframe the windows of the large "club" and billiard rooms, while the stories devoted to bedrooms, at the shaft of the building, are treated in a red brick and accentuated by the marble quoins; lastly, the ornamental balcony at the building's capital serves to denote the location of the 11th-story banquet hall, overlooking the park.

Subsequent History[40]

The increased size and prominence of the Engineers' Club's accommodations contributed to a significant growth in membership in the years following construction of the new building. Between 1906 and 1909, the club's membership rose nearly 35% to 2,000 members. By 1910, just three years after the club opened, the Board of Management declared that it would be forced to consider the provision of additional facilities to meet the "reasonable requirements of the members."[41] To satisfy the growing demands, the Engineers' Club began construction in 1913 of a five-story building at 23 West 39th Street (not part of this designation), directly abutting the Engineers' Club building to the rear and the Engineering Societies' building to the east.[42] The space, formerly utilized as a carriage entrance for the complex, opened for use by the club in April 1915. A decade later, in need of further expansion, the Engineers' Club purchased the

buildings located on both sides of it – 28 and 36 West 40th Street. No. 28 was used for additional bedrooms and a lounge area, while no. 36 was used as office space.[43] Today the Engineers' Club building continues to tower over its diminutive neighbors, rising almost nine stories above the rooflines of the smaller buildings.

For nearly six decades, the Engineers' Club and the Engineering Societies' buildings served as the epicenter of American engineering, with each establishment frequented by some of the world's most renowned engineers and scientists.[44] Among its most prominent members, the Engineers' Club has counted Andrew Carnegie, President Herbert C. Hoover, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Henry Clay Frick, H.H. Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla. Countless national and international engineering conferences were held regularly in the buildings, with some of the country's largest corporations as participants. In 1960, the United Engineering Society sold its West 39th Street property and relocated to the new United Engineering Center building at 345 East 47th Street, opposite the United Nations.[45] With that action, the engineering center was officially disbanded. As of 1972, the Engineers' Club was also the only remaining club on West 40th Street.

By the mid-1970s, the Engineers' Club was facing serious financial difficulties which culminated in the club declaring bankruptcy in 1977. Among the assets the club was forced to put up for sale were the Engineers' Club building at 32 West 40th Street, and each of the three associated buildings at 28 and 36 West 40th Street and 23 West 39th Street.[46] In 1979, the Engineers' Club building and its three associated structures were purchased by a developer who converted the buildings for residential use. Changes were also made around this time to the penthouse units, which were expanded to cover a greater portion of the roof.[47] Upon completion, the now-apartment building also featured ground floor retail and was advertised as "The Columns," probably in reference to the four prominent columns which adorn the base of the building. The celebrated history of the Engineers' Club was used in advertisements that appeared in the *New York Times* boasting: "CARNEGIE BUILT IT! Edison & Nobel Lived Here! NOW… SO CAN YOU!"[48] The building was converted into a cooperative apartment house in 1983, and remains one today.

In the mid-1990s, it was discovered that the exterior of the Engineers' Club was suffering from physical deterioration, particularly of the ornamental marble and metal elements. The architectural firm Midtown Preservation Architecture & Engineering, P.C. was hired to assess the condition of the building and make necessary repairs. The firm proceeded to repair elements including the marble arches and keystones of the 12th story, and replaced much of the original material, particularly at the building's base and at the 11th-story balcony, with lightweight fiberglass replicas due to the advanced state of deterioration of the existing marble and metal cornices. Both the cornices at the third and at the 12th stories have been replaced with fiberglass replicas. Further repairs to the exterior facade were also made c. 2001.

Today, the Engineers' Club is known as Bryant Park Place and continues to thrive as a cooperative apartment house. The building looks almost exactly as it did when it was constructed more than a century ago, standing as an architectural reminder of the commercial transformation of this part of Midtown Manhattan and of the emergence of New York State as the engineering center of the country and of the United States as an industrial and economic power. As the last remaining club building on the block, the Engineers' Club is also a prominent early example of the high-rise clubhouse building type and a visual reminder of the prominence of the social club and of bachelor apartment at the turn of the 20th century. The building also significantly contributes to the recognizable south street wall of Bryant Park. A commemorative plaque

celebrating the history of the building as the Engineers' Club was placed to the left of the primary entrance by the Co-op Board in 2007. The Engineers' Club building and the adjacent Engineering Societies' building were jointly listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2007.

The Architects: Whitfield & King[49]

It us unknown when the partnership of Henry D. Whitfield (1876-1949) and Beverly S. King (1879-1935), architects of the Engineers' Club building, was formed. The first known work of the firm was the parish house of the Flatbush Congregation Church, completed in 1899, an unusual polygonal Shingle-style structure (part of the Ditmas Park Historic District). The partnership appears to have benefited greatly from Whitfield's familial relationship with Andrew Carnegie.[50] Prior to their work on the Engineers' Club building, Whitfield & King were probably best known for the neo-Federal style parking garage designed in 1904 for Carnegie, Whitfield's brother-in-law. The garage, erected at 55 East 90th Street (part of the Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District), near Carnegie's Fifth Avenue mansion (a designated New York City Landmark), was one of the first structures erected in Manhattan specifically as a private automobile garage.[51] Following completion of the Engineers' Club, Whitfield & King went on to complete at least two more commissions associated with Carnegie, including the Cleveland Public Library in Ohio (1911) and Taylor Hall, Lehigh University's first dormitory building (1907).[52] Whitfield & King are also credited with the c. 1906 design of the Phipps Houses, model tenements constructed between West 63rd and 64th Streets at West End Avenue in Manhattan, underwritten by Henry Phipps, a former partner of Carnegie's.[53]

King began working as an architect in New York City before the turn of the century and appears to have worked both independently and as part of various architectural partnerships over the course of his career. In 1909, King was noted as having formed the partnership of King & Walker with Henry Leslie Walker.[54] Pomander Walk (a designated New York City Landmark), a complex of 27 two- and three-story houses organized around a private walk on Manhattan's Upper West Side, is probably King's best known project outside of the Engineers' Club building. The complex was designed in 1921 while King was associated with the partnership of King & Campbell.[55] In the 1920s, King moved his practice to White Plains, New York and was responsible for several public buildings in Westchester, including the White Plains Public Library, financed by Carnegie. At the end of his career (c. 1933), King went to Washington, D.C. where he served as deputy administrator of the National Recovery Administration (NRA), one of the New Deal agencies created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Whitfield graduated from Harvard University in 1898 and served as an Army officer in World War I. Whitfield appears to have practiced largely independently from 1910 to 1924, following the dissolution of his partnership with King. He worked on numerous Carnegie-funded projects throughout the country, including several libraries, such as the Muskogee Carnegie Library in Oklahoma (1914) and the Hawai'i State Library in Honolulu (1911-13),[56] as well as several university science buildings including the Carnegie Hall of Chemistry at Allegheny College (1915-18), the applied science building at the University of Rochester (c. 1913), and the Carnegie Science Hall at Bates University (1913).[57] Shortly following completion of the library in Honolulu, Whitfield was commissioned to design the Federal Building, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Hilo, Hawaii, one the first buildings in Hawaii to use reinforced concrete, already common on the mainland.[58] Within New York City, Whitfield is probably best known as the architect of the National Collection of Heads and Horns (1922, later the Security, Education and

International Conservation Offices, a designated New York City Landmark) located on the east side of Astor Court at the New York Zoological Park (later the Bronx Zoo). Andrew Carnegie and his wife Louise were great supporters of the New York Zoological Society (later the Wildlife Conservation Society), and may have helped initiate contact between Whitfield and the society.[59]

Description

North (West 40th Street) Facade:

Twelve stories; Renaissance Revival style; one visible and two partially visible elevations; tri-partite vertical composition; three bays at each story; dumbbell-shaped plan above third story; three-story base with marble facing and marble ornament; seven-story shaft with red brick in an English bond, marble quoins and other marble ornament; two-story capital with brick and marble facing and marble ornament; possibly original multi-paned windows with arched upper sashes at 11th-story window openings.

East and West Facades:

Partially visible; largely not designed; red brick laid in a Common bond; 11th-story service bridge at east facade.

Alterations:

Fiberglass replica cornices at third and 12th-stories (originally metal cornices; c. 1994-95); fiberglass replacements also at some areas of base, 11th-story balcony, and 12th-story (originally marble; c. 1994-95); aluminum replacement windows throughout (except where noted; first story originally one-over-one double-hung with arched upper sashes, replaced after c. 1940 New York City Tax Photograph; second story originally one-over-one double hung sashes with single-pane transoms; third story originally fixed multi-paned round-arched windows; fourth through ninth stories originally one-over-one double-hung sashes; 10th story originally one-over-one double-hung sashes with single-pane rectangular transoms; one-over-one double-hung sashes throughout east and west facades); original penthouse units altered and enlarged (c. 1980; penthouse units along West 40th Street further expanded into duplex units c. 1992); awnings at first-story window openings; metal globe lamps on painted metal armatures at primary door opening; plaque to left of primary door opening (2007); brass number "32" to right of primary door opening; security camera at first story; security lights at first story.

Sources:

- New York City Tax Photographs (1940s)
- Color rendering of elevation as proposed and plans of each story available in Trustees of the Engineers' Club, *The New Club House of the Engineers' Club: Being a Preliminary Description of the Plans and Details* (New York: The Trustees, 1905), available at the New York Public Library (NYPL)
- Photographs of elevations available in the photographic collection of NYPL, accessible via the NYPL Digital Gallery at http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/ (Accessed February 2011)
- Photograph of elevation (north (West 40th Street) and east facades at an oblique angle) available on the website of the Museum of the City of New York at http://collections.mcny.org/MCNY/ (Accessed February 2011)
- Printed elevations and details in "The Engineering Societies' Building, New York," *The American Architect and Building News* (April 13, 1907) 139-40 (see also LPC Research File for the Engineers' Club Building)

- Limited working drawings in file for New York City Tax Map Block 841, Lot 69, available at the Department of Buildings (microfilm)

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Research Department

NOTES

[1] Information in this section is based on the following sources: "A Midtown Contrast," *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* 90 (August 31, 1912) 384; Bromley & Co., *Atlas, City of New York* (New York: Geo. W. Bromley & E. Robinson, 1879); Bromley, 1899; Bromley, 1920; Bromley, 1928; Christopher Gray, "Across from Bryant Park," *New York Times*, August 4, 2002, K7; Gray, "At 1907 Engineers' Club, Technology Has Its Limit," *New York Times*, August, 13, 1995, G7; "Important Developments in Loft Zone," *New York Times*, February 27, 1910, X10; "In the Real Estate Field," *New York Times*, July 19, 1903, 18; "In the Real Estate Field," *New York Times*, February 19, 1910, 17; Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), *130 West 30th Street Building (LP-1201)* (New York: City of New York, 2001), prepared by Virginia Kurshan; LPC, *(former) Aberdeen Hotel (now Best Western Hotel) (LP-2076)* (New York: City of New York, 2001), prepared by Donald Presa; LPC, *Bryant Park Studios (LP-1542)* (New York: City of New York, 1988), prepared by Virginia Kurshan; LPC, *Knox Building (LP-1091)* (New York: City of New York, 1981), prepared by Marjorie Pearson; LPC, *(former) Manufacturer's Trust Company Building (now Chase Bank) (LP-1968)* (New York: City of New York, 1997), prepared by Gale Harris; LPC, *Saks Fifth Avenue (LP-1523)* (New York: City of New York, 1984), prepared by Sarah Williams; Office of Metropolitan History, "Manhattan NB Database 1900-1986," website, http://www.MetroHistory.com (Accessed 2010-11); "Pennsylvania Terminal a $100,000,000 Investment," *New York Times*, March 6, 1910, X11; William Perris, *Maps of the City of New York* (New York: Perris & Browne, 1857); "The Real Estate Field," *New York Times*, June 1, 1911, 16; "The Real Estate Field," *New York Times*, December 5, 1911, 21.

[2] "In the Real Estate Field," 18.

[3] Information in this section was adapted from the following sources: LPC, *The Wilbraham Designation Report (LP-2153)* (New York: City of New York, 2004), prepared by Jay Shockley; LPC, *(Former) Yale Club of New York City Building (now Penn Club of New York)(LP-2379)* (New York: City of New York, 2010), prepared by Jay Shockley. Additional information in this section is based on the following sources: Gray, "In Center for Clubhouses, Remnants of Small Stables," *New York Times*, April 1, 2001, RE7; James E. Mooney, "Social Clubs," *Encyclopedia of New York*, Kenneth T. Jackson, ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995) 1082; Anthony Robins, "Engineering Societies' Building and Engineers' Club," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (2007); Robert A.M. Stern, Gregory Gilmartin, and John Massengale, *New York 1900* (N.Y.: Rizzoli, 1983), 226-243.

[4] Although there is no language in the constitution or rules of the Engineers' Club explicitly restricting membership, the social and professional clubs of the time rarely extended membership to women or ethnic minorities, which generally had their own clubs. See, for example, the arguments against clubs of mixed gender in "Mixed Clubs Not Wanted," *New York Times*, July 21, 1895, 28, of not allowing Jewish members in "Did Not Use Position to Boom Club – Dewey," *New York Times*, January 24, 1905, 5, and of the separate societies maintained by New York City's African American residents in "Our Colored Friends," *New York Times*, March 13, 1871, 10.

[5] By 1890, the number of unmarried men in the city had risen to nearly 45 percent of the male population over the age of 15. United States Census (1890), cited in Howard P. Chudacoff, *The Age of the Bachelor: Creating an American Subculture* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Pr., 1999), 50. Chudacoff and other historians have noted a variety of contemporary social factors that contributed to the numbers of single men: the exclusion of women from most occupations, the greater number of male immigrants, postponement of marriage due to low income level, dissatisfaction with the institution of marriage, and the availability of alternatives, including socializing outside of marriage, the emergence of a gay male community, and the attractions of the heterosexual "sporting male culture." As defined by Timothy J. Gilfoyle in *City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1920* (N.Y.: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992), "sporting males," in opposition to "respectable" middle-class family virtues, glorified bachelorhood, male sexual freedom, prostitution, and male bonding through such activities as drinking and fighting.

[6] Historian Gwendolyn Wright, in *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America* (Cambridge: MIT Pr., 1981), 141, similarly observed that the presence of unmarried women in hotels was even more controversial, "since it was considered a grave threat when women abandoned domesticity."
[7] The bachelor units at the Engineers' Club building do not appear to have been intended for permanent residence. According to the club's constitution and rules, stays were limited to 14 consecutive nights, except in cases where rooms were not needed by other club members. This regulation may have existed in order to ensure that the club could equitably meet the demands of all members. Engineers' Club, New York, *Constitution, Rules, Officers and Members of the Engineers' Club* (New York: Bartlett & Company, 1907).
[8] Information in this section is based on the following sources: "Club for Engineers," *New York Times*, December 6, 1888, 3; "Club News and Gossip," *New York Times*, October 11, 1891, 11; Engineers' Club, New York (1890 and 1891); "The Engineers' Club Opened," *New York Times*, April 28, 1889, 6; "Engineers Open their New Home," *New York Times*, April 17, 1907, 18; Gray, 1995; A.A. Harms, B.W. Baetz and R.R. Volti, "Engineering Organizations," *Engineering in Time: The Systematics of Engineering in History and its Contemporary Context* (London, UK: Imperial College Press, 2004) 135; Kenneth T. Jackson, ed., *Encyclopedia of New York*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995); John Rae and Rudi Volti, *The Engineer in History* (New York and Oxford: Peter Lang Publishing, 2004); Robins, 1-3.
[9] Rae and Volti, 137.
[10] The Brooklyn Bridge (a designated New York City Landmark), was completed in 1883. The first line of the New York City Subway system was completed in 1904 (several stations within New York City's expansive subway system are designated New York City Landmarks).
[11] Harms, Baetz and Volti, 135.
[12] "Engineers Open their New Home," 18.
[13] "The Engineers' Club Opened," 6. A look at the membership roster for 1891 confirms this point, with members hailing from, among other places, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, and, indeed, Mexico. Engineers' Club, New York (1891).
[14] Information in this section is taken from the following sources: "Andrew Carnegie's Gift to Engineers," *New York Times*, March 16, 1904, 1; "The Engineering Building and Engineers' Club," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 38 (March 1906) 225-235; "The Engineering Societies' Building, New York," *The American Architect and Building News* (April 13, 1907) 139-40; Engineers' Club, New York (1899, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908); Trustees of the Engineers' Club, *The New Club House of the Engineers' Club: Being a Preliminary Description of the Plans and Details* (New York: The Trustees, 1905); "Engineers Open their New Homes," 18; Gray, 1995; LPC, *Andrew Carnegie Mansion (LP-0674)* (New York: City of New York, 1974); LPC, *Midtown West Survey* (New York: City of New York, 1979), prepared by the Community Development Staff; "National Clubhouse for Engineers," *New York Times*, May 4, 1903, 3; New York County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances; Robins.
[15] Membership numbers for the Engineers' Club referred to in this designation report are taken from the *Constitution, Rules, Officers and Members of the Engineers' Club* for the corresponding years.
[16] Engineers' Club, New York (1899), 41.
[17] Engineers' Club, New York (1902), 35.
[18] "The Engineering Building and Engineers' Club," 233.
[19] Engineers' Club, New York (1903), 35-36.
[20] Robins, 13. Recipients included colleges, universities, scientific institutions, teachers' grants and pensions, and, most notably, libraries. Over his lifetime, Carnegie donated $60 million for the construction of public library buildings within and outside of the United States, helping to fund a total of nearly 3,000 libraries.
[21] *The Engineering Societies Building, West Thirty-Ninth Street New York City – Historical and Descriptive* (prepared for the Dedication Exercises April 16-19, 1907), cited in Robins, 5.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Like most clubhouses of the era, the unified engineering building was to be financed via the issuance of bonds, with Carnegie's gift serving as a guarantee. "National Clubhouse for Engineers," 3.
[24] "National Clubhouse for Engineers," 3.
[25] Ibid. The Engineers' Club, had a membership of more than 1,200 at the time. Each of the invited professional clubs already had headquarters elsewhere in Manhattan. ASME was headquartered at 12 West 31st Street, AIEE at 95 Liberty Street, and AIME at 99 John Street.
[26] "National Clubhouse for Engineers," 3. A fourth organization, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) was originally invited to participate, but declined the offer. "Carnegie's Offer Refused," *New York Times*, March 3, 1904, 1.

[27] As constructed, the Engineers' Club and Engineering Societies' buildings were originally interconnected at the first story, where a rear door at the Engineering Societies' building allowed access to an open areaway which led to the first story café and grill of the club. A second connection was established on the ninth story of the Engineering Societies' building, where a flying, covered bridge connected to the breakfast room on the 10th story of the club.
[28] *Trustees of the Engineers' Club*, 5 and 9.
[29] Engineers' Club, New York (1907), 34. The strikes and labor interruptions noted apparently refer to a general steel strike in the spring of 1906 and plaster strike in November 1906. "The Engineering Societies' Building New York," 139-40.
[30] Engineers' Club, New York (1908), 38.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Information in this section is taken from the following sources: "Andrew Carnegie's Gift to Engineers," 1; "The Engineering Building and Engineers' Club," 225-235; "Engineers Open their New Home," 18; "The Engineering Societies' Building, New York," 139-40; LPC, *Midtown West Survey*; Gray, 1995; New York City Department of Building (DOB), Block & Lot File for Block 841, Lot 69; "Palatial Home and Workshops for New York Engineers," *New York Times*, September 4, 1904, SE8; "Plans for Carnegie Home for Engineers," *New York Times*, April 24, 1904, 9; Trustees of the Engineers' Club.
[33] "The Engineering Societies' Building, New York," 139.
[34] The six "established" architecture firms invited to participate in the competition were: Carrere & Hastings, Clinton & Russell, Palmer & Hornbostel, Lord & Hewlett, Ackerman & Partridge, and Whitfield & King.
[35] "Palatial Home and Workshops for New York Engineers," SE8.
[36] LPC, *(former) Aberdeen Hotel…*, 2.
[37] These social rooms included a club library, lounging rooms, and a billiard room large enough for six tables, among others.
[38] The building is rectangular in plan at its base and dumbbell-shaped above the third story. This walkway still exists and is visible on the building's east facade.
[39] In addition to the two large dining rooms, other associated facilities located on the 10th through 12th stories included reception rooms and a large breakfast room. The kitchen, servants' rooms, and other practical spaces, including a butcher and a baker, were also located on the 12th story. Initially the basement and sub-basement stories were primarily used for storage and mechanical functions such as heating, lighting and refrigeration. Later, according to the *Initial Inspection Cards (I-Cards)* of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, a barbershop and masseuse were among the services available in the penthouse in the 1940s and 50s.
[40] Information in this section is based on the following sources: "Chapter XI Sale Re: The Engineers' Club," *New York Times*, November 6, 1977, R7; Classified Advertisements, *New York Times*, June 18, 1978, W36; March 19, 1978, W35; May 27, 1979, R21; Engineers' Club, New York (1906-1916); "Engineers Club Plans Tall Office Building," *New York Times* July 3, 1936, 34; Gray, 1995; New York City DOB, Block & Lot File for Block 841, Lot 69; New York County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances; Robins.
[41] Engineers' Club, New York (1910) 39; (1911) 39.
[42] In 1906, the Engineers' Club had purchased the existing site, which they had previously leased, from Andrew Carnegie for $100,000. Engineers' Club, New York (1914) 39. In 1914, the club entered an agreement with the United Engineering Society to allow use of the east wall of the Engineering Societies' building as a bearing wall, for shared privileges of the walkways at the rear of both buildings, and for erection by the Engineers' Club of a steel and glass walkway tall enough to accommodate traffic from trucks and vans. New York County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances: Liber 195, Pages 170, 171 and 221. The building was designed by Beverly S. King.
[43] Robins, 12. In 1936, the Engineers' Club considered erecting a 16-story office building at the site of no. 36 for investment purposes. The building, which would have been a full four stories taller than the existing Engineers' Club building, was never constructed.
[44] Other engineering-related businesses located in the vicinity of the Engineers' Club and Engineering Societies' buildings included the Engineering Libraries, located at 29 West 39th Street, a periodical called the *Engineering Record*, located at 239 West 39th Street, another periodical called the *Engineering Review*, and the Engineering Review Co. Publishers, both located at 249 West 39th Street. *Trow's New York City Classified Directory* (New York: Trow Directory, Printing and Bookbinding Co., 1912 through 1925). Nikola Tesla's laboratory was also located in a nearby building at 8 West 40th Street. Tesla Memorial Society of New York, website, http://www.teslasociety.com/bryantpark.htm (Accessed May 18, 2009).
[45] By this time, the United Engineering Foundation, Inc. (UEF) had succeeded the United Engineering Society. The United Engineering Center building was designed by Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon, and has since been demolished.

United Engineering Foundation, "An Overview of the United Engineering Foundation," website, http://www.uefoundation.org/overview.html (Accessed February 2011).

[46] The vast contents of the buildings, including furniture, chandeliers, appliances, grandfather clocks (including one by Tiffany & Co.), stained glass windows, and European and American paintings from the 19th and 20th centuries, were auctioned over the course of the following year.

[47] The penthouse units were further modified and expanded in the mid-1990s. Today, the Engineers' Club building stands 12 stories with penthouses above. The two penthouses which face West 40th Street and Bryant Park are duplex units.

[48] Classified Advertisement (1979), R21. Famed Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel, for whom the Nobel Prize is named, died in 1896. The advertisement claiming that "Nobel" lived in this building either erroneously, or deceptively, confused this Nobel with a similarly named person, who was a prominent member of the club in the first decade of the 20th century. Engineers' Club, New York (1908).

[49] Information in this section is taken from the following sources: Mary Ellen Armentrout, *Carnegie Libraries of Ohio* (Ohio: published by the author, 2003); "Car Kills Beverly King," *New York Times*, March 5, 1935, 42; Andrew S. Dolkart and Matthew A. Postal, *Guide to New York City Landmarks*, 4th ed. (Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2009) 265; Gray, "Millionaire's Effort to Improve Housing for the Poor," *New York Times*, November 23, 2003, RE7; LPC, *Baird (now Astor) Court, New York Zoological Park (Bronx Zoo) (LP-1888)* (New York: City of New York: 2000), prepared by Matthew A. Postal and Joseph C. Brooks; LPC, *Ditmas Park Historic District Designation Report (LP-1236)* (New York: City of New York, 1981), prepared by the Research Department; LPC, *Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District Designation Report (LP-1834)* (New York: City of New York, 1993), prepared by the Research Department; LPC, *Pomander Walk Designation Report (LP-1279)* (New York: City of New York, 1982), prepared by Marjorie Thau; LPC, *Research Files*; Robins; James Ward, Architects in Practice NYC, 1900-1940 (New York, 1989) 42-43, 84; Norval White, Elliot Willensky and Fran Leadon, *AIA Guide to New York City*, 5th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) 716-717.

[50] Robins, 7.

[51] The garage, though still standing, has been significantly altered.

[52] The dormitory is named for Charles L. Taylor, a Lehigh graduate of the class of 1876 who rose through the ranks of Carnegie Steel to become assistant to the president, and later director of Carnegie philanthropies. Lehigh University, "Andrew Carnegie," website, http://www3.lehigh.edu/giving/campaign/lpcarnegie.asp (Accessed 2010-11).

[53] In the 1900s, steel magnate Henry Phipps, one of New York City's wealthiest residents at the turn of the 20th century, established a $1 million fund for building model tenements that would be called Phipps Houses. The four six-story buildings at 233-247 West 63rd Street and designed by Whitfield & King were the second set of Phipps Houses. They were built primarily for black residents who suffered greatly from housing discrimination. The first Phipps Houses at 321-337 East 31st Street were primarily for white residents. Gray, 2003, RE7.

[54] "News from the Classes: 1900," *The Technology Review* 11 (1909) 575.

[55] The duration of King's partnership with Shiras Campbell (1879-1958) has not been determined.

[56] The Hawai'i State Library in Honolulu is listed on the National Register as a contributing property within the Hawaii Capital Historic District.

[57] Information in this sentence is taken from the following sources (in order of mention): Dub West, *Turning Back the Clock* (Muskogee, O.K.: Muskogee Publishing Company, 1985), available online at http://www.okgenweb.org/~okmuskog/peopleplaces/turnback13.html (Accessed January 2011); Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, *Allegheny College Preservation Plan* (2007), available online at http://www.phlf.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Allegheny_College_Preservation_Plan.pdf (Accessed January 2011); A.J. May, *University of Rochester History* (New York: University of Rochester, 1977), available online at http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?PAGE=2321 (Accessed January 2011); Explore Bates Codex, "Campus Places," website, https://bates.dabbledb.com/publish/explorebatescodex/161ddb0a-977a-4e23-9d54-3c6de2d9aba4/campusplaces-byname2.html.

[58] The Federal Building, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was listed on National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Randall J. Biallas and Gerron S. Hite, "U.S. Post Office and Office Building," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (1974), available online at http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/74000708.pdf (Accessed January 2011); U.S. General Services Administration, "Federal Building, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Hilo, HI," website, http://www.gsa.gov/portal/ext/html/site/hb/category/25431/actionParameter/exploreByBuilding/buildingId/550 (Accessed January 2011).

[59] LPC, *Baird (now Astor) Court…*, 17.

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 Engineers' Club Building 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 Engineers' Club Building was founded in 1888 at a time when professional engineering was becoming increasingly important to the industrial and economic development of the United States; that while the city was well supplied with professional and trade associations related to engineering, the Engineers' Club was the first purely social organization founded in the United States for engineers or those connected to the field; that prominent members of the Engineers' Club have included Andrew Carnegie, Herbert C. Hoover, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh, Cornelius Vanderbilt, H.H. Westinghouse, and Nikola Tesla; that while the club originally leased space in Midtown Manhattan, it began planning for a larger, purpose-built clubhouse around the turn of the century, acquiring land facing Bryant Park and the future home of the New York Public Library (both New York City Landmarks); that around the same time, industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie offered the sum of $1 million for a separate project which would result in the creation of a joint headquarters for New York City's professional engineering clubs, but that in 1904, Carnegie increased the amount of his proffered gift to $1.5 million in order to incorporate the plans of the Engineers' Club; that the design of the Engineers' Club Building was determined by an architectural competition in which the young firm of Whitfield & King bested more established names; that the 12-story Renaissance Revival style Engineers' Club Building was completed in 1907 and featured a tripartite configuration consisting of a three-story base clad in white marble with prominent Corinthian pilasters, a seven-story red brick shaft embellished with marble quoins and molded window enframements, and a three-story capital capped by a deeply projecting modillioned cornice; that the Engineers' Club Building is an early example of the high-rise clubhouse building type; that the Engineers' Club Building also featured 66 sleeping rooms, in addition to public and social spaces; that the Engineers' Club occupied the West 40th Street building until 1979, when the structure was successfully converted into residential apartments; that today the Engineers' Club Building looks almost exactly as it did more than a century ago; that the Engineers' Club Building continues to stand as an architectural reminder of the emergence of New York State as the engineering center of the country and of the United States as an industrial and economic power; that, as the last remaining club building on a block which once had several, the Engineers' Club Building is also a visual reminder of the prominence of the social club and of the bachelor apartment at the turn of the 20th century.

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 Haskins & Sells Building, and designates Manhattan Tax Map Block 841, 18 as its Landmark Site.

Robert B. Tierney, Chair
Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice-Chair
Frederick Bland, Diana Chapin, Michael Devonshire, Michael Goldblum, Christopher Moore, Roberta Washington, Commissioners

Engineers' Club Building
32 West 40th Street (aka 32-24 West 40th Street)
Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 841, Lot 69
North (West 40th Street) Facade
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2011

Engineers' Club Building, c. 1905
North and East Facades with Streetscape
Courtesy of: Museum of the City of New York

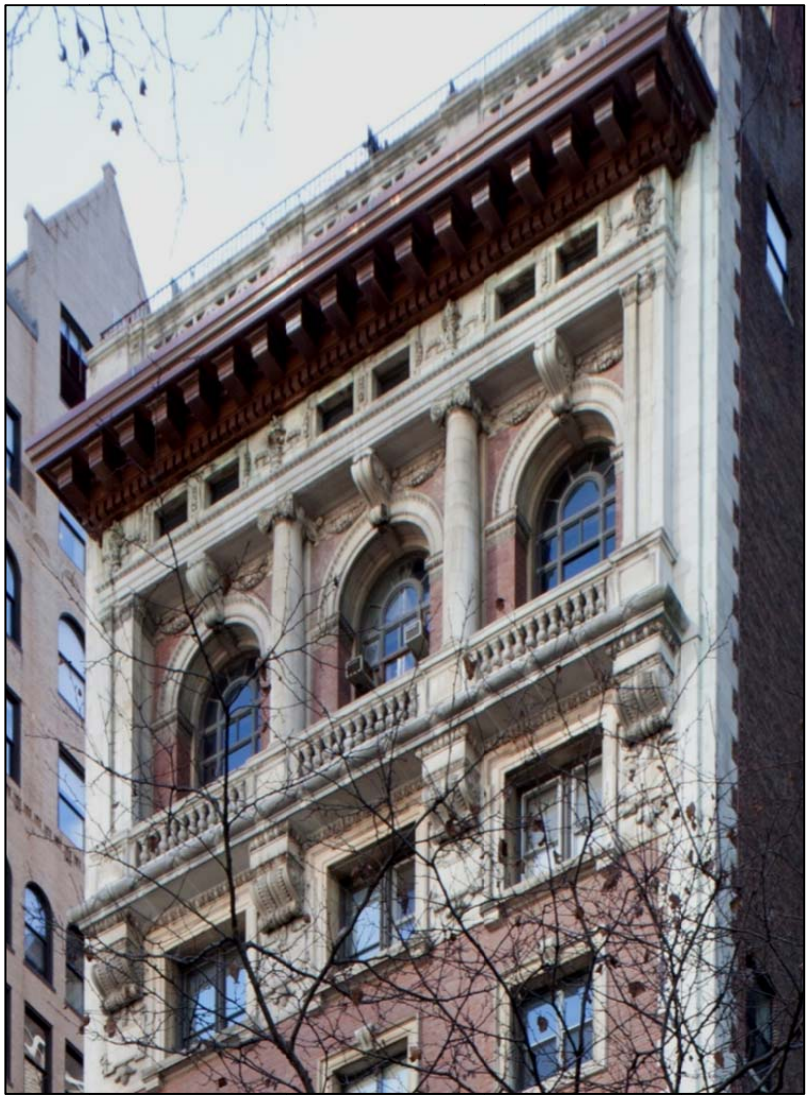
Engineers' Club Building, c. 1936
North and West Facades with Streetscape, view from Bryant Park
Courtesy of: New York Public Library

Engineers' Club Building, c. 1939
North Facade
Photo: NYC Department of Taxes

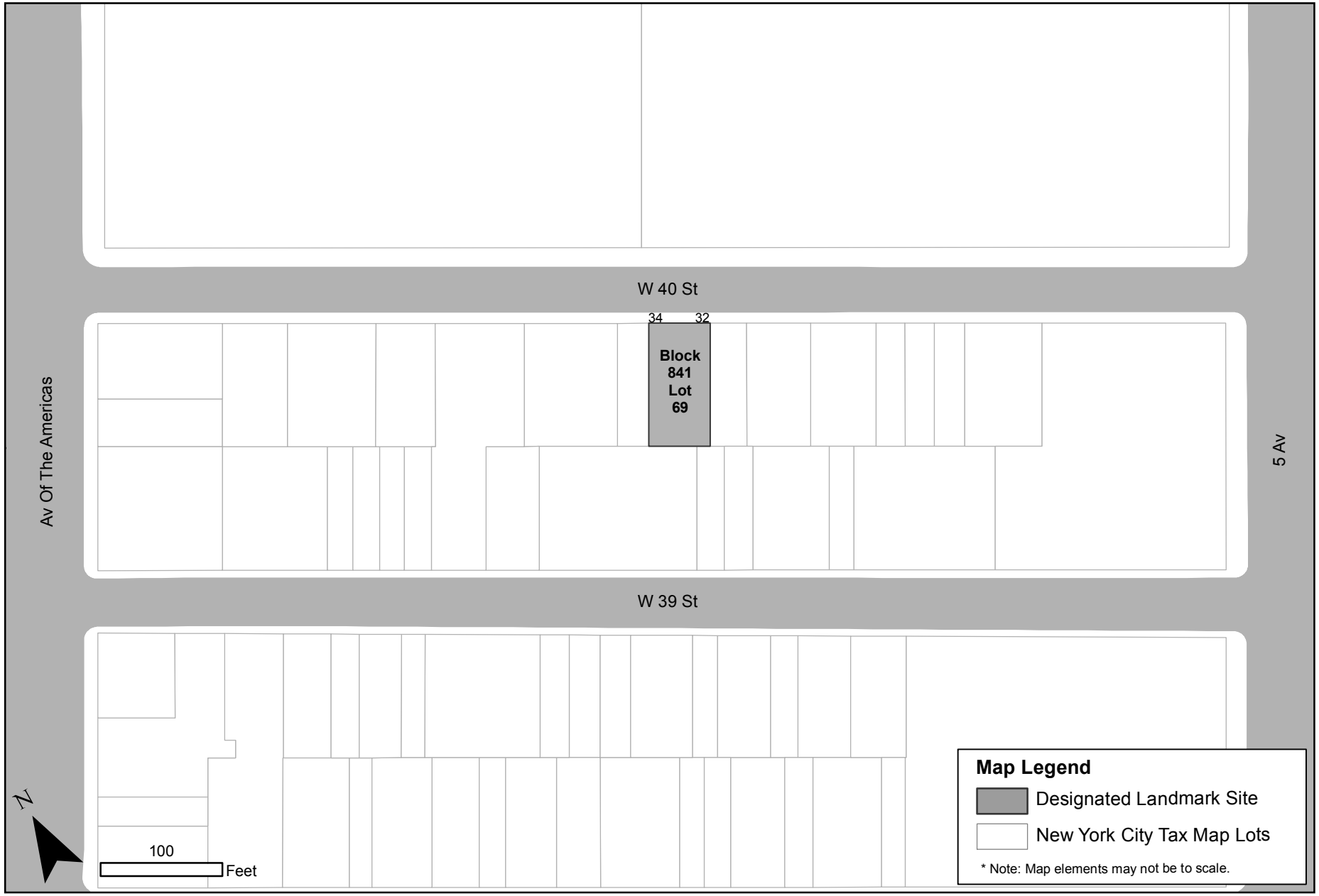
Engineers' Club Building
North and East Facades
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2011

Engineers' Club Building
North and West Facades
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2011

Engineers' Club Building
Base of North Elevation
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2011



Engineers' Club Building
Upper Stories of North Elevation
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2011



ENGINEER'S CLUB (LP-2429), 32 West 40th Street (aka 32-34 West 40th Street)
Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 841, Lot 69

Designated: March 22, 2011

Graphic Source: New York City Department of City Planning, MapPLUTO, Edition 09v1, 2009. Author: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, JM. Date: March 22, 2011