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Landmar	ks Preservation Commis	ssion(LP-0830)		
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	Landmarks Preservatio	n Commission,	STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

### DESCRIPTION DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

CHECK ONE

X\_EXCELLENT \_\_GOOD

\_\_FAIR

\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_UNALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

XALTERED

\_MOVED DATE\_N/A\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The handsome three-story townhouse at 203 Prince Street, with its front of Flemish bond brickwork and brownstone basement, was built in 1833-34. Its style is transitional from Federal to Greek Revival and it is one of the few surviving examples of its type in New York City. The impressive entrance set above a high stoop is the most striking Federal style element of the facade. The arched doorway is outlined by a molded enframement of brownstone. The door is flanked by Ionic columns and engaged Ionic columns which enframe the three-paned sidelights. An entablature with carved wooden foliate moldings at the cornice and the architrave is surmounted by a . semi-elliptical fanlight by egg-and-dart molding. The windows are crowned by brownstone lintels with cap moldings--typical Greek Revival features. The third floor was raised in 1888, replacing the original attic story with peaked roof and dormer windows. The metal cornice is carried on foliate brackets separated by molded panels in the fascia. cage newels with The original wrought-iron stoop railings, which have pineapple finials, are Federal style decorative features and add to the elegance of the house.

The house was sympathetically and painstakingly restored by the owner in 1972. The turn-of-the-century fire escape was removed, and the one-over-one sash of the same period were replaced by the six-over-six type. Wooden louvered blinds were restored to the windows. While the entrance enframement and the fanlight are original to the building, the eight-panel Federal style door was salvaged from a house of the period which was being demolished.

#### Interior features:

The interior of the 203 Prince Street House is notable for the combined use of the Greek Revival and the earlier Federal styles, incorporating the finest decorative elements of both periods. Just inside the front door is a square vestibule; through another door (a duplicate of the front entrance) is hall. The hall has original woodwork, plaster moldings and mahogany railings on the stairs. The parlors are large square rooms with high ceilings, original plaster moldings, Greek Revival woodwork with egg-and-dart moldings, paneled interior shutters at the windows, eight-panel doors and black marble mantelpieces supported by Ionic columns at the sides. The front parlor has its original plaster ceiling rosette with large curving acanthus leaves radiating from a decorative central boss. The woodwork of the second floor rooms is in the earlier Federal style, with six-panel doors and molded casings at the doors and windows, each of which has square blocks at the upper corners containing four small, carved acanthus leaves. The molded plaster cornices are original, as are the white marble Federal style mantlepieces. The original wide-board pine floors are preserved on the second floor. The third floor is quite plain and much of the woodwork dates from 1888 when the roof was raised.

#### SIGNIFICANCE SIGNIFICANCE

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_1900-		_INVENTION	-	

SPECIFIC DATES 1833-34

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 203 Prince Street House is one of the very few surviving examples in New York City of a transitional architectural style which incorporates Federal and Greek Revival elements together. At one time, New York City had hundreds of similar houses; however, only a handful remain and many of these have been drastically altered. Therefore, it is particularly fortunate that the carefully restored 203 Prince Street House remains to remind us of an era in New York City that is all but lost.

The 203 Prince Street House was built for John P. Haff, a leather inspector, who acquired several lots on the block in 1811 and built houses on three of them in 1833-34. This house is a characteristic example of an upper middle-class New York City residence of the 1830s. When built, it was located in the Eighth Ward, which had formerly been a part of Aaron Burr's estate "Richmond Hill." The gateway to Burr's estate stood near the end of MacDougal Street, about where No. 203 stands now, and Burr's mansion stood one block west on the corner of Charlton and Varick Streets. The Burr mansion was the official residence of Vice-President John Adams during the presidency of George Washington when New York City was the nation's capital.

## MAIOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Landmarks Preservation Commission. 203 Prince Street House Designation Report (LP-0830). New York: City of New York, 1974.

8th Ward Assessment Books for 1834 to 1842.

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New York City Directories 1830 (	to 1865.		
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NATIONAL		ATE	LOCAL X
As the designated State Historic Preservation hereby nominate this property for inclusion criteria and procedures set forth by the Nation STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGN	on the National	Register and certify	eservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). It was that it has been evaluated according to the
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#### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet House at 203 Prince St.

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New York County, NY

Form Prepared By:

James E. Dibble, Senior Landmarks Preservation Specialist Landmarks Preservation Commission 20 Vesey St. New York, NY 10007 212: 566-7577



