

NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION South Swan Street Bidg South Mall, Albany, New York 12223 Information 518 474-0456 Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner

Febrary 13, 1974

Dr. William Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Historic Preservation Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York
County

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on the Registers in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Division for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH State Historic Preservation Officer

By:

F. L. RATH, JR. Deputy Commissioner Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Rectangular in shape and covered by a flat roof, the building which houses the Salmagundi Club stands four bays in width and four stories in height upon a raised basement. Above the rusticated basement, the brick bearing walls are sheathed with a smooth brownstone veneer. The simplicity which characterizes the front facade due to the treatment of the wall surface is judiciously varied by elaboration of the cornice and the architraves of the main story. The wide cornice is carried upon eight acanthus leaf brackets, the center six of which are paired. A high, wide stoop provides access from the street to the entrance, framed first by an arch springing from scrolled brackets and highlighted by an ornamental keystone. The arch is, itself, surmounted by a projecting pediment carried on acanthus consoles. Modillioned entablatures surmount the three first floor windows, hinged to function as French doors opening from the parlors onto balconies of cast iron.

Double parlors on the piano nobile, separated by a screen of arches springing from Corinthian columns, contain elaborately carved marble mantelpieces, rosewood doors, handsome chandeliers, and wide, richly detailed cornices, accented by paired acanthus leaf brackets. The Dining Room, converted now to serve as part of the Club's Art Gallery, was designed in the Gothic Revival Style and has retained its original detail.

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PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1852-18	353	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Erected in 1852-53, the structure known today as the Salmagundi Club was one of the earliest of the stately Anglo-Italianate townhouses that lined the lower part of 5th Avenue during the last half of the 19th century. One of the first with a facade entirely of brownstone, it presaged the great architectural fad which swept the city during the second half of the 19th century. Flanked today, by multistory structures, the well preserved dwelling, built for Irad Hawley, President of the Pennsylvania coal company, was once part of a row of townhouses of equally elegant character occupied by other families of the wealthy merchant class.

The Anglo-Italianate architectural vocabulary which supplanted that of the waning Greek Revival for high style building in the second half of the 19th century, derived its inspiration from the forms of Renaissance Italy as interpreted in early Victorian England. The Salmagundi Club is a good example of the style as it was expressed in urban residences. Ornamentation of the plain, smooth brownstone facade is concentrated around the openings of the piano nobile. The main entrance, reached by a sweeping stair, is featured by an ornamental pediment, supported by two acanthus brackets, which surmounts an arch springing from acanthus brackets and accented by a scrolled acanthus keystone. The flanking parlor windows, surrounded by molded jambs and crowned by heavy modillioned lintels, are actually French doors opening onto shallow iron balconies.

The Salmagundi Club, established in 1871 as a private artists' club, purchased the house in 1917 and has utilized it since then as a clubhouse. The interior has been carefully preserved and is today among the few examples remaining in New York City of Italianate rooms executed in the grand manner. The former dining room designed in the Gothic Revival style and the double parlors on the piano nobile are especially distinctive. The latter number among their special features arches springing fron Corinthian columns, carved marble mantelpieces, and ornamental cornices enlivened by a rhythm of scrolled acanthus brackets. The Gallery housed in the Clubhouse is utilized for exhibitions of artwork by the members

Form 10-300a (July 1969) C DEBARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Significance

including such notable artists as John La Farge, Howard Pyle, Louis C. Tiffany, George Inness, and Stanford White.

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172	New York STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	4		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION	DN
	As the designated State Liaison Officer for to tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Pu 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for in the National Register and certify that it hereby the state of the state o	the Na= blic Law inclusion as been	1	I hereby certify that this property is include National Register.	d in the
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