

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED **FILE COPY**

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Andrew S. Norwood House

AND/OR COMMON

Andrew S. Norwood House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

241 West 14th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New York City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

18

STATE

New York

CODE

036

COUNTY

New York

CODE

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Raf Borello

STREET & NUMBER

241 West 14th Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Register, New York County

STREET & NUMBER

31 Chamber Street

CITY, TOWN

New York City

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Landmarks Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

New York City

STATE

New York

7 DESCRIPTION**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated along the north side of 14th Street, the Norwood house presents a handsome and generously-proportioned four-story building set above a brownstone basement and subtly accented with brownstone trim. Its transitional style reflects the Greek Revival tradition, which had been popular for town house design in the 1830s and 1840s, and the new Italianate style. The smooth faced basement is punctuated by two square headed windows with original cast-iron gratings. At the first floor, there are two full-height French doors with Greek Revival eared enframements. These doors open onto the original, Italianate style, cast-iron balcony. The doorway at the left, above a high stoop of ten risers, has an elegant Doric entablature, carried on Doric pilasters, which is ornamented with triglyphs above guttae. The central triglyph acts as a bracket for the cornice above. The doorway treatment is a particularly striking Greek Revival feature, and has recently been refinished. The three, six over six panes of glass double hung windows at the second, third, and fourth floors have distinctive Italianate style enframements and sills, each of which is supported by two corbels. The window size diminishes in height at each ascending level, a characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The wood roof cornice of Greek Revival type is composed of a fascia board below a series of closely-spaced modillions, which in turn support a clean cut cyma recta trim board above.

The interior retains almost all of the elaborate detailing of the 1840s. The high ceilings at the first floor level are clearly delineated by a distinctive enriched talon wall molding below a bold intertwined rosette and fleur-de-lis ceiling molding. The rooms are well proportioned and balanced by handsome door enframements with eared architrave jambs. The single door enframements have slightly raised pediments above the lintels while the enframement of the double sliding doors between the rooms has an attractive floral motif within the expanded architrave jamb; above is a crisply detailed egg and dart molding. The focal point for each of the first floor rooms is an elaborately carved marble fireplace mantel. Both mantels display distinctive curvilinear and floral motifs.

The central open-string stairway is enhanced with tapered, multi-sided spindels and decorative carved brackets. This delicate staircase rises four stories to a high double sloping space, set off by the same handsome molding used on the parlor floor. This space is delicately trimmed in plasterwork, focusing one's attention to a small graceful stained glass skylight.

The second, third and fourth floors retain all of their detailing, but as was typical of the Greek Revival style, the decorative features become simpler as one ascends each level. The eared enframements are retained on the second and third floor but not on the fourth floor which served as the servants' quarters. Likewise, the fireplace mantels are of simpler design and actually display Gothic Revival arched openings on the second and third floors. The fourth floor, however, does not have a single distinctive fireplace.

FHR-8-300A

FHR-8-300A

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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New York City, New York County

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The building is a structure with a brick bearing walls. The main span of approximately 21' is from the eastern bearing wall to the hallway bearing wall, while the shorter 7' span is from the hallway bearing wall to the western bearing wall. The building is in a sound structural state with no deterioration due to neglect or natural causes. The basement and parlor floors open onto a large rear garden. The building remained in excellent condition over the years partly because for about fifty years it served as a funeral parlor. The house is currently floor through apartments and is being carefully restored by the present owner.

8 SIGNIFICANCE**9 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES **MID 1845 to MID 1847** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Unknown**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of the Norwood House lies within the boundaries of a farm acquired in about 1647 by Cosyn Gerritsen van Putten, an early Dutch settler. In 1741, Sir Peter Warren, a famous Irish officer in the English Navy, purchased the property. The area surrounding the site on which the Andrew S. Norwood house now stands remained rural until the 1830s, despite the fact that Seventh and Eighth Avenues had been opened to traffic one to two decades earlier. As the city expanded northward from Greenwich Village, Union Square and 14th Street became a fashionable residential district. During the 1840s many blocks of fine town houses were constructed along and north of 14th Street. In 1845, Andrew S. Norwood purchased several lots on 14th and 15th Streets, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. Various sources indicate that Norwood had three houses constructed along the north side of 14th Street between mid-1845 and mid-1847. These were the first brick or masonry buildings on the block between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. The three houses correspond to 239, 241, and 243 West 14th Street. Norwood's own house at No. 241 was thus originally flanked by "first-class" single family houses, both of which he had sold off. In February of 1850 he sold No. 453 to Mr. Edward Hughes and in February of 1853 he sold No. 449 to Mr. Latimer Bailey. These two houses have been severely altered over the years and do not retain significant original features. Today most of West 14th Street is heavily commercial.

The Norwood family was described in 1879 as being "among the oldest of the Knickerbockers upon this island."¹ Andrew S. Norwood (1770-1856) was a highly successful merchant. As a principal in the firm of Norwood and Austin, he eventually amassed a considerable fortune. The firm loaned \$10,000 to the merchants subscription program begun when the federal government could only raise part of the 16 million dollars needed for the War of 1812. In addition, Norwood was one of the jurors for the 1806 trial of merchant Samuel G. Ogden. This trial, which was brought by the federal government, concerned Ogden's involvement in an ill-fated commercial venture which was closely linked with General Francis Miranda's unsuccessful expedition to free Columbia, South America from Spanish rule.

¹The World, March 13, 1879, n.p.

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The house at 241 West 14th Street was transferred to Norwood's son, Andrew G. Norwood in June of 1858, and the property remained in the Norwood family until the turn of the century. A.G. Norwood was a member of the Stock Exchange for forty years. His son entered the family brokerage firm in 1853, and in 1865, A.G. Norwood retired after having "accumulated a large fortune." He died at the age of 66 on March 11, 1879, and in his memory the flag of the Stock Exchange was lowered to half mast. This house reflects, and is a tangible reminder of, the Norwood family's economic prosperity.

The finely preserved architectural details of both the interior and exterior retain much of the building's distinctive and original residential character. The elegant proportions and handsome decorative features, reflecting the Greek Revival and Italianate styles previously described, give it particular distinction. It is one of the few remaining townhouses of its type in New York City and is a striking reminder of the fashionable 14th Street residential area of the 1840s.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES*~~Landmarks~~ Preservation Commission Files.

*Landmarks Preservation Commission Files.

*New York Times, March 13, 1879, p.3.

*Property Conveyances (Office of the Register, New York County).

Scoville, Joseph A. The Old Merchants of New York. New York: Carleton, 1863. II, 209-10,329.~~okes~~, I.N. Phelps. The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909. New York: Robert

H. Dodd, 1928. VI, 157, 161, 162, 415, 593, 599, plate 84D-b.

*The World, March 13, 1879, n.p.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	8	5	84	2	80	45	1	0	1	2	0
ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING						
C												

B												
ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING						
D												

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located on the north side of 14th Street 287.21 1/4 feet east of Eight Avenue, running northerly and parallel to Eighth Avenue 103.3' then easterly 29.2' parallel to 14th Street, then southerly and parallel to Eighth Avenue 103.3', and then westerly 29.2' parallel to 14th Street to the point of origin.

The property described is known as Tax Map Block 764, Lot 15 in the Borough of Manhattan.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel P. Brunetto

CONTACT: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph 518-474-0479
Division for Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

(None--for the owner)

DATE

June 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

355 West 20th Street

TELEPHONE

Bus. 566-7577

CITY OR TOWN

New York City

STATE

New York

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐STATE ☐LOCAL ☒

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Stephen J. Rank

TITLE Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

DATE

4/26/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

TEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

6265 IV SW
(CENTRAL PARK)

ANDREW NORWOOD
HOUSE
241 WEST 14TH STREET
NEW YORK COUNTY
EASTING 5/84/280
NORTHING 45/10/120