1. NAME

COMMON:

131 Charles Street House

AND OR HISTORIC:

OFFICE COPY

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

131 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE:

36

COUNTY:

New York

CODE:

061

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

[ ] Public
- Public Acquisition:
  - In Process
  - Being Considered

- Private
- Bank

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment

- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum

- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific

- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
  - Restricted
  - Unrestricted

- No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. & Mrs. John J. Stonehill

STREET AND NUMBER:

131 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE:

36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

New York County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:

31 Chambers Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE:

36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE OF SURVEY:

April 1966

FEDERAL: [ ]

STATE: [ ]

COUNTY: [ ]

LOCAL: [x]

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

305 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE:

36

Rep. Bella Abzug
This small late Federal house is two stories high, with an attic lighted by two pedimented dormers in the pitched roof. As in most of New York's Federal houses, the brick walls are laid up in Flemish bond, and the wood trim is painted white. The heavy window lintels and the cornice above the door are additions of a later period. It is likely that the original Federal trim exists beneath them. An eight-paneled oak door is set between slender Ionic side columns which support an entablature. Above the door, a leaded transom lights the stair hall. The cornice with dentils which extends the width of the facade, is wide for the Federal period, and with its added weight, it foreshadows the solidity which was becoming an aesthetic ideal.

In 1834 Greenwich Village was still a suburban community. During the late 18th and 19th centuries the builders of houses in towns felt it necessary to include small doorways or areaways between the front wall and the sidewalk to distinguish from the city residence a village house. The areaway at 131 Charles Street is still defined by a wrought-iron fence with a classical motif.

The low stoop which gives access to the door is brown stone covered with cement, and retains its original wrought-iron hand railing with newel posts of a later date.

Inside the house, the plan is notably different from the usual small Federal townhouse plan. The stairway rises from the front of the entrance hall rather than from the rear. The rear chimney is near the center of the house, between two rear rooms. A narrow passageway runs through the house at street level serving a backhouse causing the ceiling to be higher than the level of the main floor. The space above this passageway is utilized within the house for closets and china cabinets. An oval window, now bricked up, is located above the passageway on the main facade.

Inside the house much of the original trim remains. The floors are the original pine boards. The carved wood mantels in the main rooms are the original ones, and the door and window architraves, pilasters and ceiling cornice in the front are original. In the rear dining room are the china cabinets with pine doors. The stairway still has its original newel post and bannister.
### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- □ Pre-Columbian
- □ 16th Century
- □ 18th Century
- □ 20th Century
- □ 19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATES** (If Applicable and Known) 1834

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Political</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Religion/Phil.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Isopony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Social/Human-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The area between Washington and Greenwich Streets, in which No. 131 Charles Street is located, was once a part of the estate of the Dutch Director-General Wouter Van Twiller. During the Colonial period it was a part of the Peter Warren farm which was bought by David Hallows from the Earl of Abergain in 1788. It became the property of the patriot Abijah Hammond in 1794, then of the William W. Gilbert estate in 1796. David Christie, a stonemason, bought it along with the adjoining lot (No. 129 Charles Street) at public auction in 1833.

David Christie built the house at No. 131 in 1834. Today the house is the best preserved example of at least thirty similar houses erected by Christie between 1817 and 1835.

In 1834, the lot was outside the most heavily built area of the city, and the house was probably intended for lease or rental to a middle-class family which could not afford to live in the urban area to the south.

The 131 Charles Street house, although it received some minor exterior alterations during the Victorian period, is notable for the remarkable number of original interior features, carved wooden fireplaces, floorboards, ceiling cornices, window and door frames and pilasters remaining. These are all examples of interior features typical of late Federal architecture in New York City.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

1. NAME
   COMMON: 131 Charles Street House
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 131 Charles Street
   CITY OR TOWN: New York
   STATE: New York

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: USGS Quadrangle, 7.5' Services, Brooklyn, N.Y.
   SCALE: 1:24,000
   DATE: 1967

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1. NAME
   COMMON: 131 Charles Street House
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 131 Charles Street
   CITY OR TOWN: New York
   STATE: New York

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
   DATE OF PHOT: c. 1966
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   View of south facade on Charles Street
Files of New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

William S. Pelletreau, Early New York Houses

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPEITY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40° 44' 06&quot;</td>
<td>74° 00' 27&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: under one acre

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Stephan S. Lash and Ellen Rosebrook Associates

ORGANIZATION: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE: November 1, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: New York

### 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [X]

Name: [Signature]

Title: Chairman, N.Y. State Historic Trust

Date: 2/4/72