United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory -- Nomination Form

See instructions in how to complete National Register forms.
Type all entries -- complete applicable sections.

1. Name
   Historic
   And/or common
   House at 203 Prince Street

2. Location
   Street & number
   203 Prince Street
   City, town
   New York
   State
   New York
   Code
   036
   Vicinity of
   New York
   County
   New York
   Code
   061

3. Classification
   Category
   District
   Site
   Object
   Buildings
   Structures
   Site
   Public acquisition
   In process
   Being considered
   N/A
   Ownership
   Public
   Private
   Both
   Status
   Occupied
   Unoccupied
   Work in progress
   Accessible
   Yes: Restricted
   Yes: Unrestricted
   No
   Present use
   Agriculture
   Commercial
   Educational
   Entertainment
   Religious
   Government
   Scientific
   Industrial
   Transportation
   Military
   Other

4. Owner of Property
   Name
   Gordon H. McCollum, Jr.
   Street & number
   203 Prince Street
   City, town
   New York
   Vicinity of
   New York
   State
   10012

5. Location of Legal Description
   Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.
   New York County Register's Office
   Street & number
   31 Chambers Street
   City, town
   New York
   State
   New York
   10007

6. Representation in Existing Surveys
   Has this property been determined eligible?
   Yes X No
   Title
   Landmarks Preservation Commission (LP-0830)
   Date
   February 19, 1974
   Federal __ State __ County X Local
   Depository for survey records
   Landmarks Preservation Commission, 20 Vesey St.
   City, town
   New York
   State
   New York
   10007
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 surrounded 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. The original wrought-iron stoop railings, which have cage newels with 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 blinices 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 the stair 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 mantelpieces. 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

**PERIOD**  
- PREHISTORIC  
- 1400-1499  
- 1500-1599  
- 1600-1699  
- 1700-1799  
- 1800-1899  
- 1900  

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**  
- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
- ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
- AGRICULTURE  
- ARCHITECTURE  
- ART  
- COMMERCE  
- COMMUNICATIONS  
- COMMUNITY PLANNING  
- CONSERVATION  
- ECONOMICS  
- EDUCATION  
- ENGINEERING  
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
- INDUSTRY  
- INVENTION  
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
- LAW  
- LITERATURE  
- MILITARY  
- MUSIC  
- PHILOSOPHY  
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
- RELIGION  
- SCIENCE  
- SCULPTURE  
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
- THEATER  
- TRANSPORTATION  
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC DATES</th>
<th>1833-34</th>
<th>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
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**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, abut 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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


8th Ward Assessment Books for 1834 to 1842.

New York City Directories 1830 to 1865.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY | Less than one acre |
| UTM REFERENCES | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |
| A | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| B | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 203 Prince Street house occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 518, Lot 49, which is approximately 25 x 77 feet as outlined on the attached map.

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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</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE
Anne B. Covell, Historic Preservation Field Services

ORGANIZATION
Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza

STAFF NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN
Albany

STATE
New York

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

TITLE
Deputy Commissioner and Counsel

DATE 4/8/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

GPO 832-453
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet House at 203 Prince St. Item number 11 Page 2

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