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
Metropolitan Savings Bank  
OFFICE COPY

AND/OR COMMON
First Ukrainian Assembly of God

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
9 East 7th Street

CITY, TOWN
New York  
VICINITY OF
Edward I. Koch - 18th

STATE
New York

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
- DISTRICT
- BUILDINGS
- 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
- TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
First Ukrainian Assembly of God

STREET & NUMBER
9 East 7th Street

CITY, TOWN
New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
New York County Hall of Records

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER
31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN
New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New York City Landmarks

DATE
1972

FEDERAL
STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
STATE
New York

CITY, TOWN
305 Broadway, New York
The Metropolitan Savings Bank Building occupies an urban corner plot bounded on the west by the Bowery and on the south by East Seventh Street. The three and one-half-story structure is rectangular in plan with its central axis oriented east and west. It faces a small, open square. Commercial buildings of compatible scale flank the structure on East Seventh Street and the Bowery.

The composition of the building's exterior design is determined by the massing, by the treatment of wall surfaces and by the use of decorative details. The full stone basement, rusticated to the level of the water table, supports the load-bearing walls of smooth ashlar masonry. Rustication also gives bold emphasis to the quoins at the corners of the building and to the round-arched door surround on the west (front) elevation. A segmental arcade supported by engaged pilasters surrounds the building at the first floor level. The vertical thrust achieved by the massing of the building, the mansard roof, and the tall, three-story projection of the central bay on the west elevation is balanced by the horizontal emphasis resulting from bands of fenestration and from the dentiled belt course which delineates each story. An ornate dentiled cornice at the roof line enhances the horizontal emphasis.

The fenestration surrounding all three stories is regular. Large double-hung windows are recessed within the arches of the first story. Tall arched windows capped by bracketed stone entablatures characterize the second and third stories. The center bay on the west elevation projects slightly to form a decorative portico. Fluted columns flanking the main entrance support a second-story balcony, balustraded and surmounted by a stone pediment.

The horizontal plane of the slate-covered mansard roof is relieved by a total of twelve round-hooded dormers with pediments, three evenly spaced across each roof elevation.

The interior of the Metropolitan Savings Bank Building remains remarkably intact, retaining most of its original fabric. The basement and first floor consist largely of unpartitioned open space, while the upper two and one-half stories are divided into offices. The building's "fireproof" construction features include cast iron columns and iron beams supporting the floors, and cast iron staircases. In the basement is located the original iron bank vault, and the vaulted "fireproof" basement ceiling is built of iron. Original wood moldings, wainscoting, and paneled doors survive throughout the interior of the building.
Minor alterations to the structure have occurred since 1937, when the former Metropolitan Savings Bank Building was purchased by the First Ukrainian Assembly of God for use as a house of worship. The basement and first floor are the focal areas for worship services, and pews, altars, and pulpits have been installed in these rooms. A rectory office has been partitioned off at the northeast corner of the large first floor room. Electricity and central heating have been added to the building during the twentieth century.
Erected in 1867, the Metropolitan Savings Bank Building is a significant example of mid-nineteenth century commercial architecture in New York City which has retained its stylistic and physical integrity despite the pressures of urban development during the twentieth century. Designed by Carl Pfeiffer, a German-born architect, the Metropolitan Savings Bank is an exceptional Second Empire-style stone structure which was also a noted attempt at "fireproof" construction. The building survives with its interior and exterior virtually intact.

The Metropolitan Savings Bank was built according to the design of Carl Pfeiffer (1838-1888). Born and trained in architecture and engineering in Germany, Pfeiffer immigrated to the United States in 1863, establishing himself as an architect in New York shortly thereafter. Among Pfeiffer's commissions were the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Roosevelt Hospital and Asylum, and townhouses in the Washington Heights area. Pfeiffer also designed the New Jersey Building at the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia.

During the early nineteenth century the city of New York was ravaged by a number of disastrous fires which destroyed entire blocks of commercial buildings. In his design for the Metropolitan Savings Bank Building, Carl Pfeiffer attempted, through the use of stone and iron construction materials, to render the building fireproof. Soon after the bank was completed in 1867, a report published by the Superintendent of Buildings for the City of New York noted:

In the construction of this building no combustible materials have been used, either externally or internally, where masonry or ironwork could be made available, rendering the same fireproof. Were

buildings constructed after the manner of the Metropolitan Savings Bank, the frequency of conflagrations, and the immense destruction of merchandise by fire and water, which have from time to time visited upon our city, would be materially lessened, if not altogether prevented. It is one of the handsomest and most thoroughly constructed buildings in the city, and is a perfect model in its precaution against fire.

With its mansard roof, its dentiled cornices and bracketed window entablatures, and its decorative wall treatment, the Metropolitan Savings Bank Building is among the most aesthetically distinctive commercial buildings to survive from the nineteenth century in New York City. The liberal use of iron structural elements on the interior of the building likewise helps to distinguish the Metropolitan Savings Bank as an important landmark in the development of fireproof construction techniques.
### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Files of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
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<tr>
<td>VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION</td>
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### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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### FORM PREPARED BY

- **Edited by:** Raymond W. Smith, Program Assistant Office of Parks & Recreation Albany, NY
- **Stephen S. Lash and Ellen F. Rosebrock, Associates**
  - **ORGANIZATION:** NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
  - **DATE:** July, 1976
  - **STREET & NUMBER:** 305 Broadway
  - **CITY OR TOWN:** New York
  - **STATE:** New York
  - **TELEPHONE:** 212-566-7577
  - **CODE:** 10007

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 for Historic Preservation

**DATE:** 8/6/76

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

- I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
- **DATE:**
- **DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**
- **ATTEST:**
- **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**GPO 992.497**
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC: Metropolitan Savings Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON: First Ukrainian Assembly of God

**2 LOCATION**

CITY TOWN: New York

VICINITY OF: New York

COUNTY: New York

STATE: New York

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series (Brooklyn Quad)

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1967

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES