Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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2.Number	f house					
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of basemer	it windows a	nd entry varyi	ng in he	ight accor	dingly to	the slope
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3. Layout	and/or shap	e of plan: The	plan is	the shape	of an irr	egular seve
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ing door	f glass with	bronze grill	up to a	randing 1	n iront of	the impos-
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and herage	ne and a la	ended ceiling	pacterne	a with air	ernatinggi.	idea circles
ing of the	wells and a m	rge shallow c	ircular (dome. Abo	ve the mark	ore Mainsco
arabesques	walls are	green damask p	aners su	rrounded by	y bands of	mosaic
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YV Wangs f	nom the cont	res: A huge c	nastal c	nandeller	in the sty.	le of Louis
well near	Broad Street	er of the dom	e, domin	ating the	room. On t	the south
1011 by Po	on-Flow sta	, the well-kn	own port	rait of J.	P.Morgan, p	painted in
broad arch	which com	il hangs over	the ori	ginal marb.	Le fireplac	e. The
Broad Stra	witch obeis	into the co	nnecting	floor and	mezzanine	of 15 -
Droad ofre	et ennances,	even further	, the spa	atial chara	acter of th	ne large ro
10. The	only exteri	or alteration	was the	blocking i	up of the b	pasement
windows an	dentry. Tr	ey were fille	d in behi	ind the bro	onze grille	s with
matching m	arble, The	penthouse was	construc	cted in 199	55 in conne	ction with
the instal	lation of ai	r-conditionin	g equipme	ent.	181	19.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For almost a century, the J. P. Morgan banking interests have occupied a building at No. 23 Wall Street, in the heart of one of the most historic areas in New York City. With the passage of time and the growth of the firm's importance, this address came to be known, in the financial circles of Europe and the United States simply as "the corner".

The present structure, reflecting neo-classic influence, bearing no designation other than the small gold numerals on the door, was designed by Trowbridge and Livingston. Begun in 1913, it was completed in 1914, some months after the death of J.P.Morgan, who had commissioned it and played a part in the shaping of its design. It replaced an earlier building constructed in 1873 on the same site for Drexel Morgan & Co., the name by which the firm was known from 1871 to 1895, when it was succeeded by J.P.Morgan & Co.

The unusual shape of the lot and the required diagonal placement of the entrance, at the angle of Wall and Broad Streets, were important factors in determining the shape of the building. Approached down Wall Street (from west to east), the three low street elevations come into view in their entirety, broadening out opposite the Federal Hall National Memorial - to which the building is related in scale - giving the impression of an open square.

It was J.P.Morgan's wish that the exterior walls be the same pink
Tenneessee marble as those as his library on East 36th Street. It was his
wish that the main banking room have no visable interior supports. To
accomplish this it was necessary to invent a system of overhead trusses
res ting on steel supports built up through the walls. The three upper
floors and the ceiling of the main banking room are hung from these trusses.

The absence of any name plate on the entrance is due to the fact that J.P.Morgan had specified that the broad pilasters either side of the door be left bare. He had in mind decorative elements to be placed on pedestals in front of them. He died, however, before the matter was settled and his successors chose to leave the front unadorned. This austerity came to be identified with Morgans!

The merger of J.P.Morgan & Co., and Guaranty Trust Company in 1959, created a problem of space, neither company having quarters sufficiently large for the new organization. The architectural firms of Rogers, Butler & Burgun, and Carson, Lundin & Shaw were selected to work out a solution.

	IBLIOGRAPHICAL	REF	ERENCES								
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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& Significance

Page 2

Since Morgan & Co., also owned No. 15 Broad Street, which wraps around 23 Wall, several proposals were considered: to build on top of No.23 Wall, (the original foundation could support a building of more than thirty stories) to cantilever a structure out over it, to tear down both buildings and replace them with a new one. "History and tradition, reinforced by practical considerations, including those of costs, won out," as Morgan Guaranty expressed it. The facade of No.23 Wall was to remain virtually unchanged even to the pock marks on the west walkcaused by the 1920 Wall Street explosion. It would be integrated functionally with 15 Broad by means of the interior remodeling of both buildings. Work began in the summer of 1961 and was completed in 1964.

Alterations were made throughout No.23 Wall Street, but the main ones were in the large banking room. The original bronze and marble deviding screens were replaced by low marble balastrades (some from No.140 Broadway, headquarters of Guaranty Trust Company). Some marble columns and pilasters were recombined for a rchitectural desoration of interior doorways. Although the Mosa ic walls remain intact, for the most part they are concealed behind large green damask panels. The central glass dome was replaced by the present plaster one, from which hangs the huge chrystal chandelier in the style of Louis XV.

This interior remodeling was a manifestation of changes that had been occurring in the business through the years. Founded around 1860 (no record of the exact date exists), it was originally located just opposite No. 15 Broad Street, but in 1873, after several moves, No.23 Wall Street became their permanent address.

Internationally oriented from early years, when affiliates were set up in London and Paris, J.P.Morgan & Co., assumed world-wide importance around the turn of the century. It played a leading role at home in helping to solve economic crises. It underwrote the formation of the U.S. Steel Corporation in 1901, and before the entry of the U.S. into World War I, it helped the allies finance the war.

The Banking Act of 1933 forced Morgan & Co., to chose between security underwriting and commercial banking. It chose to become a commercial bank, remaining a private partnership intil 1940, when it became incorporated bank and trust company. In 1959 it merged with Guaranty Trust Company to form Morgan Guaranty Trust Company.

The exterior of the building has scarcely changed in the sixty years of its existance. Its strong quiet dignity still dominates the physical scene in much the same way that the powerful banking firm dominated the financial scene at the time of construction. Its elements of Italian Renaissance architecture reflect the identification of J. P. Morgan with the great merchant-banker princes of the Renaissance. Nevertheless, in its formal mass, overall design, flat wall areas and large windows No.23 Wall

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Significance Page 3

Street belongs to the tradition of American architecture of the twentieth century. As the headquarters of J.P.Morgan & Co., it has played an important part in the growth of New York and the United States, and both building and address are known throughout the world.





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Federal Registry Entry 7-72	Annu	al Edition	Entry			,,
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COMMENTS:			WORKIN	IG NUMBER 2	26.72.2	288
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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:_

Bella Abrug



NPS Number June 19, 1972

Title: J. P. Morgan + Co.

Loc. New york County Ay

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Quall and Swad Street

Looking last, down wall sheet

Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
New York	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 1 9 1972	

NAME		
COMMON: J.P.Morgan & Co.	Building	
	ranty Trust Company	
LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
233 Wall Street		
CITY OR TOWN:		
New York		
STATE:	CODE COUNTY:	cor
New York	36 New York 7118	06
MAP REFERENCE		1 10
SOURCE:	X 1: 10. 13	
USGS Quadrangle	7.51 Series	=
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TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	3/
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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

JUN 1 9 1972 Date Entered

Location

Name Morgan (J.P.) and Company Building New York New York County Trevor (John Bond) House Yonkers Westchester County Old Lutheran Parsonage Schoharie Schoharie County Saint Mark's-in-the-Bowery New York New York County Brown (John) FARM Lake Placid Essex County Quackenbuch House Albany Albany County Alexander Pirnie Carleton J. King Washington Park Historic District Albany Albany County Salisbury Center Covered Bridge Salisbury Center Herkimer County

> Casino-Congress Park-Circular Street Historic District Also Notified

Hon. James L. Buckley Hon. Bella Abjug Hon. Peter A. Peyser Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr. Hon. Edward I. Koch Hon. Robert C. McEwen

Hon. Samuel S. Stratton

Union Hotel

State Liaison Officer Dr. Louis C. Jones Chairman New York State Historic Trust Parks and Recreation Building 2 - State Campus Albany, New York 12226

Sackets Harbor Jefferson County

Saratoga County

Saratoga