THE HARVARD CLUB OF NEW YORK CITY, 27 West 44th Street, Borough of Manhattan.  
Begun 1893, completed 1894.  Major additions completed 1903, 1915; architects  
McKim, Mead & White.

Landmark Site:  Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1260, Lot 20.

On May 10, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing  
on the proposed designation as a Landmark of The Harvard Club of New York City,  
and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 12). Two  
witnesses spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public  
hearing until June 11, 1966 (Item No. 1). At that time The Harvard Club opposed  
the proposed designation. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with  
the provisions of law.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Sitting erect and dignified on West Forty-Fourth Street is this trim and  
elegant Georgian club house. The charm of this building lies in its red brick  
with limestone trim and in its intimate scale, the delicate refinement of its  
handsome detail, and the pleasing harmony of its well related architectural  
components. The front elevation consists of a handsome motif, where a main  
entrance doorway at street level is surmounted by a central round headed window,  
flanked by two pairs of limestone Ionic columns which rest on the second floor  
ledge and support the delicately refined third floor cornice. Directly above  
this and centered between two windows is the handsomely carved shield of Harvard  
University. At the roof line, the stone coping, covering the brick parapet wall,  
supports a central crowning element composed of a star-studded stone ball flanked  
by two horizontally placed consoles. To the west of this three story building,  
a six story addition was made in 1915.

The Forty-Fifth Street elevation is very interesting and its design is con-  
sidered by many to be equal in quality to that of the entrance facade. This  
exterior wall contains three-story round-headed windows set between brick  
pilasters, which light the great lounge, considered by many architectural histor-  
ians to be the finest club room in America. At the public hearing, the Chairman  
of the Historical Buildings Committee of the American Institute of Architects,  
New York Chapter, said that he read several years ago a brief obituary of an  
honored Harvard alumnus, in which it was noted that the most significant accom-  
plishment of the deceased, as a member of the building committee at the time the  
club was built, was that he held out for a period of weeks against the entire  
committee for the three storied lounge. He won his point, and today the Harvard  
Club has a room that has no equal in the City.

The November 1966 Bulletin of the Harvard Club contains the following  
quotation from the Harvard University Bulletin of October 20, 1902, which devoted  
most of that issue to describing plans for the first expansion of the club.  
"The Harvard Club of N.Y.C.," it reported, "has just adopted plans for an addition  
to the Club House which will surpass in usefulness and comfort any building of  
its character in the world." When this work was completed a homecoming was held  
in Harvard Hall, December 7, 1905 with President Charles W. Eliot as the principle  
speaker.

The Harvard Club of New York City was organized in 1865, with headquarters  
at 11 West 22nd Street. The Club was incorporated in 1887 "to advance the  
interest of the University, and to promote social intercourse among the alumni  
resident in New York City and vicinity." The original part of the present club  
house was constructed between 1893-95, and designed by Charles Follen McKim, as  
a handsome Georgian building of modest scale. Additions were made to the club  
in 1903, 1915, and 1916, which greatly enlarged it.
FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that The Harvard Club of New York City has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the Harvard Club is an outstanding example of the Georgian Style, that the facade exhibits charm, excellent proportions, handsome architectural details and distinctive features in the best Georgian manner and that the club house reflects the taste and cultural atmosphere of the alumni of this great American University.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 8-A of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark The Harvard Club of New York City, 27 West 53th Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 1260, Lot 20, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.