

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Lillian Wald Residence
other names/site number _____
name of related multiple property listing n/a

Location

street & number 265 and 267 Henry Street ☐ not for publication
city or town New York ☐ vicinity
state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10002

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

x national statewide local

R. Daniel My 12/9/2021
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
DSHPD
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/settlement house

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/settlement house

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early Republic/Federal

Mid 19th Century/Greek Revival

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: rubble

walls: brick, stone

roof: rolled asphalt

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary

The Henry Street Settlement and Neighborhood Playhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974 for its significance under criterion A in the area of social/humanitarian. The designations were identical and included three early nineteenth century row houses (263, 265 and 267 Henry Street) that were acquired between 1895 and 1934 and formed the Henry Street Settlement and the 1915 Neighborhood Playhouse, which is located two blocks away at 466 Grand Street. That designation recognized the history of the settlement house and the public nursing program founded by Lillian Wald after she moved to Henry Street in 1895 and its history and development until the playhouse was established in 1915.

This new nomination, which was prepared as part of a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant administered through the New York State Historic Preservation Office, includes only the buildings in which Wald lived and worked, 265 and 267 Henry Street, and recognizes these buildings as the most important resources associated with the life of this significant American nurse and reformer. In addition to documenting her role in the settlement house, this nomination also discusses her nontraditional life, how her relationships with women at the settlement impacted her both personally and professionally, and how these relationships were foundational to the origins of Henry Street Settlement and the settlement house movement. This form documents a period of significance of 1895 to 1933, encompassing Wald's residence in 265 and 267 Henry Street and her most productive years. Although 263 Henry Street is also interconnected with 265 and 267, it was not acquired until 1934, after Lillian Wald's retirement and her move to Westport, Connecticut; thus, it has no relationship to her life and work and is excluded from the nomination.

Description

The buildings at 265 and 267 Henry Street are located on the north side of Henry Street, just east of Montgomery Street, between Montgomery Street and Grand Street, in the New York City neighborhood of the Lower East Side, New York County, New York. The two buildings are among few historic buildings in the immediate vicinity, as there has been extensive urban renewal in the area. Historically, the buildings were located in the middle of a block between Montgomery Street and Gouverneur Street, but urban renewal resulted in the demolition of the western half of the block and the closing of both Gouverneur and Scamell Streets,

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creating the current long block between Montgomery Street and Grand Street. Immediately to the east of the buildings is another historic building, former Fire Engine Co. 15. To the east of this are the Sol Lain Playground, an athletic field, and PS 134 Henrietta Szold (1959-60). To the immediate west of 263 Henry Street, at the corner of Montgomery Street, is a city-owned park and garden. Farther to the west, on the west side of Montgomery Street, is a remnant of the historic Lower East Side, with its five-story tenements. On the south side of Henry Street is the twenty-one-story, brick, Gouverneur Gardens housing tower, with its lawn and parking along Henry Street. Farther east on the south side of the street are a one-story commercial building now largely housing the Betances Health Center (1969), the 1827-29 St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (originally All Saints' Free Church, NR listed), and a portion of Vladick Houses, an early low-income housing project dating from 1939-40. To the north, facing onto East Broadway, are two Federal style row houses from the late 1820s and a third building that appears to be a heavily altered tenement.

The two buildings that compose this nomination read as individual buildings on the exterior, and each will be described separately. On the interior they have been connected on all floors, but each retains its individual plan, room divisions and identity. Connections were cut in the party wall between the buildings on every floor as early as 1906 (R.L. Daus, architect), the year that the settlement acquired No. 267. This is documented by an alterations permit. A later exterior connection was made across the rear. Despite these connections and the changing use of the buildings, the original interior layout of each is evident and generally intact. In the basement, the entrance to the buildings incorporates the front of both buildings. As for the links cut into the party walls, some of them are on the same level, while others are connections via short staircases. The two buildings retain their integrity, both from their time of construction and from their time as the residence of Lillian Wald, when they were also an active settlement house, as they remain today.

265 Henry Street

No. 265 Henry Street was the first building in the complex acquired by the Henry Street Settlement. It was a gift of banker and philanthropist Jacob Schiff, who purchased the building in 1895 and donated it to the settlement in 1903. Originally a two-and-one-half-story Federal style row house with a raised basement dating from 1827, it received a full third story in 1895, shortly after its acquisition by Schiff for use by the settlement (Frederick Jacobsen, architect). The three-bay-wide building has a red brick façade, with the brick laid in Flemish bond on the first and second stories and in stretcher bond on the third-floor addition. The raised basement, articulated by two rectangular windows, was originally clad in brownstone and now has a cementitious coating simulating brownstone. The house is set back from the sidewalk behind an area with an original wrought-iron railing. The

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setback accommodates a stone stoop at the west side of the façade, leading to the front door. The stoop is lined with original wrought-iron railings with newel posts surmounted by pineapples. The stoop and areaway railings were restored in 2019 with missing pieces replicated.

The 265 Henry Street house retains its original Federal style entranceway, a classic example of a Federal style New York City doorway. The stoop leads to an eight-paneled door (probably original) flanked by fluted, attenuated colonettes, sidelights (some of the original leading is extant on the sidelight to the right), and half-colonettes. The colonettes support an entablature with acanthus and egg-and-dart moldings. Above the entablature is a transom with an egg-and-dart border. Above this is a lintel with projecting moldings, probably dating from ca. 1900. All of the rectangular windows have six-over-six, double-hung wood sash and projecting lintels that probably date from ca. 1900. The façade is crowned by a simple pressed-metal cornice.

The rear elevation of 265 Henry Street is faced in brick. The basement and first-floor level project out in an addition, probably dating from the early twentieth century. This addition replaced an earlier addition at the west end of the façade that was constructed in two phases, the first before 1902 and the second in 1902 (Frederick Jacobsen, architect). On the first story, the open area at the rear of 265, located below the second-floor sleeping porch, has been enclosed, creating a passage that connects 265 to the rear extension of 267. The rear wall of 265 is extant within this passage. The three windows on each floor have flush stone lintels, shallow stone sills, and multi-pane wood sash. The second floor has a sleeping porch that adjoins Lillian Wald's bedroom; this porch once extended over the extension below. Wald frequently slept on this porch. The porch is supported by four wooden piers with a denticulated cornice and has two skylights on its ceiling, replacing an earlier single skylight. There is also a non-historic wooden structure hanging from the ceiling that hides HVAC equipment. The porch is accessed via double glass and wood doors with a transom. This doorway is to the left and connects to Wald's bedroom. The remainder of the fenestration on this level consists of a large and a small segmental-arched window. On the third floor are three rectangular windows with six-over-six wood sash. The backyard retains its basic form, but the playground that was active during Wald's residency has been converted into a garden and sitting area.

The basement of 265 Henry Street has largely lost its historic configuration and details. It now consists of a non-historic reception area in front and an office in the rear. The stairs from the basement to the first floor have been removed. The one historic feature that remains is a fireplace on the north wall of the reception area that was added by Wald in 1910. Eight of the green tiles of the fireplace, probably made by the Grueby Faience Company of Boston, a leading Arts & Crafts pottery firm, show the Chinese bao symbol, chosen by Wald for its meaning – "we are one family."

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The upper floors retain much of their historic detail; these interiors were restored in 2017. Entering through the historic front door, a visitor accesses the original 1820s front hall with its plaster walls, simple baseboard, and egg-and-dart cornice molding. The ceiling is outlined with deeply grooved rectangular panels interrupted by square blocks ornamented with acanthus leaves and central, four-petal flowers. A ceiling rosette with acanthus ornament is in the center of the ceiling. The two doors on the east wall of the hall have grooved enframements with corner blocks with acanthus ornament and projecting central pine cones. Set far back in the hall is a segmental arch with keystone supported by pilasters with paneled fronts and grooved sides. The arch separates the entrance hall from the stair hall. At the rear of the stair hall is a door that originally led to the outside space beneath the second-story sleeping porch but now leads to an enclosed extension. The door has a sidelight to the left side and an enframement similar to those on the other hall doors. The stair retains its original mahogany balustrade, extending up to the top floor, with its slender balusters, top rail that curves at each floor level, and ornate newel post with superb acanthus carving and a series of concave and convex moldings. The stair treads have been replaced, but the end blocks retain their original scrolls and, at the landings, simple panel moldings.

To the east of the hall, on the first floor, are two rooms, originally used by the settlement for classes and other activities, but now used as offices. These would have been front and back parlors in the 1820s. The rectangular rooms are virtually identical, each with an original marble mantel on the east wall. These mantels are carved from a black marble with yellow veining and have superbly carved recessed Ionic columns to either side connected by a grooved horizontal panel. The fireplace opening on each mantel has been enclosed with a Rococo style, cast-iron front added at an unknown date in the twentieth century. The window and doorway enframements of the parlors have moldings and corner blocks similar to those in the hall. The cornice and ceiling moldings are also the same as those in the hall with the exception of an additional molding with shallow grooved detail below the egg-and-dart molding at the cornice level. In the center of each ceiling is a rosette with acanthus leaves and four-petal flowers. The parlors are separated by a pair of double doors that, when open, hide the fact that there is a closet to either side. The closet doors have leaded transoms. These wide openings in each parlor have grooved enframements with square, foliate corner blocks and larger rectangular central blocks with acanthus and pinecone detail.

The three rooms on the second floor are simpler than those on the first floor. The two rooms on the east side have wood fireplace mantels with Tuscan columns supporting an entablature with vertical paneled rectangles above the columns, a horizontal rectangular panel in the center, a grooved horizontal frieze, and a mantel shelf. A cornice surrounds each room with a series of stepped classical moldings. The window and door enframements are similar to those on the first floor. The rear room on the second floor was Lillian Wald's

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bedroom and sitting room. At the east end of the north wall of this room is a pair of double doors that lead out to the sleeping porch. Although this was Wald's room, it was not a strictly private space since she hosted informal gatherings in the room with children who were taking classes or using the settlement's facilities.

The third floor of 265 Henry Street was originally a half-story, but it was expanded to a full-height third story in 1895. The floor is divided into small rooms that were used by the nurses and other staff members who were in residence at the settlement. The windows on this floor appear to have enframements that date from the 1820s and they were probably salvaged and reused when the height of the floor was expanded. Some of the rooms have closets that were probably added as part of alterations in 1906 (R. L. Daus, architect).

267 Henry Street

The façade of 267 Henry Street dates from 1900 when the architecture firm of Buchman & Fox donated its services to convert a Greek Revival style row house from the 1830s into a Colonial Revival home for the Hebrew Technical School for Girls. The building was sold to Morris Loeb in 1906; he donated it to the Henry Street Settlement. What was originally a three-story and raised basement building with a stoop leading to an entrance on the parlor floor was converted by Buchman & Fox into a building with a basement entrance located several steps below the sidewalk level. The building is set back from the sidewalk behind an areaway with an iron fence installed in 1900. The basement level of the building is cast stone (now painted) replicating the appearance of rusticated limestone. The doorway is located on the west side of the façade. The rectangular entrance (now the main entrance to the three-building complex) is deeply recessed within a Colonial Revival style limestone enframement. The entrance has a multi-panel door with sidelights divided by simple muntins. The enframement is crowned by a projecting cornice supported on brackets. The cornice supports an iron balcony railing. The upper floors of the building are red brick laid in stretcher bond with limestone trim. A limestone beltcourse separates the raised basement from the first floor and similar beltcourses are located at the lintel level on the first floor and the sill level on the third floor. The three rectangular windows on the second floor have six-over-six double-hung wood sash with each window capped by a splayed lintel with projecting keystone and end voussoirs. Each of these window ensembles is set within a recessed, blind, brick arch. The windows on the second floor are virtually identical, but they lack the blind arch and have limestone sills. The six-over-six windows on the third floor are of somewhat lower height and their splayed lintels lack the projecting voussoirs of the windows below. The building is crowned by a projecting, pressed-metal cornice supported by a row of blocks and ornamented with dentils, egg-and-dart, and other classically inspired moldings. All of the limestone on the façade has been painted.

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There is a substantial addition at the rear of 267 Henry Street that extends the full width of the lot, almost to the rear lot line. The full history of construction of this addition is not known, but in 1909 and again in 1911 the prestigious architect John Duncan made additions to the earlier addition. The addition is brick with several rectangular windows with shallow stone sills. It has a rectangular door on the first story leading to the rear yard of 265 Henry Street.

Although the facade dates from 1900, the interior retains high-quality Greek Revival detail from the 1830s. With the 1900 alteration to the building, the basement became the main entrance to 267 Henry Street. The entrance space at 267 has been combined with space in front of 265 Henry Street to provide a non-historic reception area. Beyond the reception area, the brick party wall between 265 and 267 has been exposed. A stair with wood treads, risers, and railing extends from the basement level to the first floor alongside this wall. The major spaces on this floor have been combined into an exhibition gallery with exposed brick walls. At the rear, on the east wall, is the original hearth and a baking oven with a cast-iron door.

The first floor contains the original stair hall of the Greek Revival house and front and rear parlors. The original entrance vestibule was incorporated into the front parlor spaces, creating an L-shaped room. What may be the original inner door enframing of the Greek Revival house (or a 1900 Colonial Revival design) is located on the north wall of the short wing of the ell. It consists of a segmental-arched enframing with a mahogany door, fanlight, and seven-light sidelights. The door frames have grooved moldings similar to those at 265, as well as the corner blocks with pine cones also seen at 265 (it is probable that these were added during the restoration in the 1990s). Beyond this is the stair hall. The stair retains its original mahogany balustrade, railing, and newel post. The balusters are heavier than those at 265 Henry Street. The double parlors are separated by a screen with a single Ionic column and pilaster to each side. Each parlor has a very fine, austere, black Italian marble mantel with red veining. The window enframements are similar to those at 265 Henry Street. The ceiling of each room is rimmed with a modillion cornice and each has a central ceiling rosette with anthemion detail. The parlors were a multi-use space used by Lillian Wald and the other residents of the settlement as a dining room, but the space was also used for classes and other activities.

On the second floor are two major rooms, each with a simple wood mantel with Tuscan columns and marble surrounds. In 1911, a Department of Buildings permit notes that the second floor was used as a library. The window and door enframements on this floor are more austere than those in 265 or on the first floor of 267, with no corner blocks. The third floor is divided into small rooms that were used by residents of the settlement. In the hall at the top of the stairs is a large wardrobe with unusual hardware, including handles cast with the insignia of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of the City of New York -- a bent arm, with rolled up

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sleeve, holding a hammer. There is a substantial addition at the rear of 267 Henry Street. It has a kitchen on the first floor and offices above, with no notable detailing.

Integrity

The exteriors of 265 and 267 Henry Street retain high levels of integrity to the period of significance, 1895 to 1933. The architectural features of the interiors of both buildings are remarkably intact, as the Henry Street Settlement staff over the years has taken great effort to preserve these rooms. As a still-active settlement house and social services agency, many of the moveable furnishings have been updated and modernized; however, these changes do not detract from an understanding of how Lillian Wald lived and worked in the space. During Wald's period of residence, she moved through both buildings during the course of her day. It was also natural and expected that the rooms would serve not just as private spaces but also as communal work and living spaces, accommodating the work of the settlement house, Wald's ideas about communal living, and private space to distance herself from those activities when needed. Her bedroom, in 265, which was also used as her sitting room and as a multi-use space for settlement activities during the day, is highly intact and retains key architectural finishes, including the molding, wood floors, mantel, and double doors leading to her intact sleeping porch. Her bedroom is now used as a conference and meeting room. The dining room, which is in 267, where Wald ate and had meetings with other nurses, as well as hosted important guests and held other activities, is also highly intact and retains its architectural finishes. The space is furnished in a way that evokes these uses and is still used as a meeting space today.

As early as 1906, the buildings were interconnected through traditional-size doorway openings in the party walls on each floor. In the 1970s, a new hallway extension at the rear of the first floor extended across the rear of 265. The original brick wall exterior and fenestration was retained and is visible from this hallway. The stairwells, other than the one in the basement of 265, remain, so that each building is still clearly defined. If Wald were to move through these spaces today, she would recognize each area and be able to navigate her way from her bedroom in 265 to the dining room in 267. Other than the basement, the buildings retain high levels of exterior and interior integrity, providing a strong connection to Wald's life at the settlement house. The most significant alteration after Wald's time was the purchase of the third rowhouse, at 263 Henry Street, in 1934 and its interconnection with the other buildings. However, although it post-dates Wald's residence, it strongly relates to the continuing work and expansion of the settlement she founded and remains part of the previous National Register and National Historic Landmark listings.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health

Social history/women

Social history/LGBT

Period of Significance

1895-1933

Significant Dates

1895; 1906; 1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Lillian Wald

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

various

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance encompasses the time Lillian Wald lived in the nominated property, which is also the time in which she made her most significant contributions to history.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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NOTE: The two buildings in this nomination, 265 and 267 Henry Street, form part of an NHL nomination that also includes 263 Henry Street and 488 Grand Street. While those four buildings document the history and significance of the Henry Street Settlement, this smaller nomination documents, recognizes, and honors the life and work of Lillian Wald; thus, it only includes the two buildings that formed her residence.

Summary

The Lillian Wald Residence, at 265 and 267 Henry Street, is nationally significant under criterion B in the areas of health, social history/women, and social history/LGBT for its association with the life and work of the nationally influential public health nurse and progressive reformer Lillian Wald (1867-1940), founder of the Henry Street Settlement. Wald started a visiting nurse service in 1893 (then called the Nurses Settlement); using her nursing training, she began providing free or affordable health care for immigrants and low-income neighbors. In 1895, Wald moved to 265 Henry Street with the help of philanthropist Jacob Schiff. Over time, she and the visiting nurses saw that access to health care was just one of the challenges faced by residents, and soon she expanded the settlement's services to include education, employment and housing help, and arts classes and performances. Her living and working space extended to 267 Henry Street in 1906, the year that building was acquired by the settlement. Wald lived and worked in 265 and 267 Henry Street until her retirement in 1933.

Wald was a true visionary. Her accomplishments resonate on a local and national level: founded the field of public health nursing, started the school lunch program in New York City, established the first classrooms for children with special needs, placed the first school nurse in a public school, and helped to create the first municipally built playground in the United States, on the Lower East Side. She was a founding member of the NAACP and the Women's Trade Union League, and she fought for women's suffrage, labor protections, child labor laws, and the rights of immigrants. She emphasized treating all people with dignity regardless of their circumstances, advocated for immigrants' cultures to be valued, and provided resources for people to *thrive*, not just survive. These were radical values at a time when anti-immigrant sentiment, violence against African Americans, and eugenics thinking were on the rise.

Although much of Wald's work was based in New York City, her ideas around social reform, activism, and public health had national significance. Wald created the concept—and coined the term—"public health nursing," forever shifting the way that nursing work was approached. At the turn of the twentieth century, in the world's most crowded neighborhood, Lower East Side residents lived in sordid conditions and had few

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protections. Seeking to serve the country's most vulnerable, Lillian Wald made the Henry Street Settlement both a crucially important local resource and a nationally significant model for providing health care to low-income residents and newcomers.

Wald also belonged to the first generation of "New Women," educated, middle-class women who were economically and socially autonomous and made significant contributions to Progressive Era reform in the fields of public health, education, medicine, social reform, the arts, and business. These women, who rejected traditional gender roles and male-run family structures, formed the backbone of the settlement house movement in the United States. They established, according to historians Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Lillian Faderman, and Blanche Wiesen Cook, living and/or work environments that allowed women, for the first time in American history, to network and create an influential political force that led to enormous social change and female empowerment in the decades ahead. Documentation exists, particularly for leading Progressive reformers, that romantic relationships did form between many women within the movement. In the mid-1970s, Wiesen Cook uncovered love letters in Wald's letter collection at Columbia University and the New York Public Library. These letters and Wiesen Cook's writings indicate that Wald had romantic relationships with women who helped her start the settlement and they were therefore foundational in the institution's origins. Wald called the women with whom she had both romantic and platonic relationships "the Family" (a concept commonly used in women-run settlement houses), and they provided an essential support network for her. Similar to other first-generation New Women, who came of age during the Victorian era, Wald did not feel the need to discuss her sexual identity; this was in contrast to New Women of the second and third generations, who came of age in the first three decades of the twentieth century. While Wald did not publicly call herself a "lesbian" (a term that was not widely used that the time), she did consider these relationships as familial and lived an alternative model of family for herself. Wald's romantic relationships, which took place while she and her partners were residents of Henry Street Settlement, also make the settlement a significant early and rare documented residence of a lesbian couple (and LGBT couples in general) in New York City. Lillian Wald's wisdom, compassion, and persistence provide a blueprint for making decisions in the present and carrying her legacy of helping others forward for future generations.

Wald and her family of nurses lived communally in 265 and 267 Henry Street. Wald's bedroom/sitting room was located in 265, and she also had access to a sleeping porch immediately off her bedroom; however, the dining room, where Wald ate and held meetings, was located in the adjacent building at 267. She moved freely

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between the two spaces in the course of the day and in both spaces, as well in the other communal spaces of these buildings, she organized the work of the settlement, socialized, and served as the head of “the Family” (the term she used to describe the women who lived and worked there with her). Her private spaces were also the places she experienced intimate relationships with women. As such, these two resources are those most closely associated with her productive life and significant achievements. The nature of the interconnection between 265 and 267 has left them substantially intact to Wald’s period, and the spaces she inhabited (her bedroom, sitting area, sleeping porch, dining room) remain substantially intact and able to illustrate the period of her residence. Because this nomination specifically recognizes Wald’s life and work, the boundary has been drawn to include only 265 and 267 Henry Street, her home for thirty-eight years.¹ Wald’s profound legacy touches most Americans’ daily lives and guides Henry Street Settlement’s work in the present day, as the settlement serves more than fifty thousand New Yorkers annually through a vast array of social services, arts, and health care programs.

In time, Wald brought many influential and powerful American and international visitors to Henry Street Settlement to exchange ideas—among them, Jane Addams (the co-founder, in 1889, of the Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago), W.E.B Du Bois (leading civil rights activist, co-founder of the NAACP, educator, and writer), Amelia Earhart (pilot and social worker), Herbert Lehman (New York governor and U.S. Congress member), and Eleanor Roosevelt (wife of then New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt). As Wald said in the early twentieth century, “A long procession of saints and martyrs, sympathizers, and supporters have crossed the threshold of the House on Henry Street and stirred deep feeling there.”² Wald was a much-admired friend and champion to her neighbors on the Lower East Side.

Narrative Statement of Significance

¹ Connections between these two and a third building, 263 Henry Street, which had been acquired in 1934, were made in the 1970s, after Wald’s death.

² Lillian D. Wald, *The House on Henry Street* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1915), 238.

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Lillian Wald's Early Life, 1867-1895

Lillian Wald was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1867. She was the child of Jewish immigrants; her mother, Minnie Schwarz Wald, was from Germany, and her father, Max Wald, was from Warsaw, Poland.³ The Walds came from a long line of rabbis, scholars, merchants, and professionals in Europe.⁴ Her parents and grandparents immigrated to the United States after fleeing the Revolutions of 1848 in Europe. They came to the United States with means—unlike the immigrant neighbors Wald would later serve on Manhattan's Lower East Side—and settled in Cincinnati, a city that attracted a large, religiously diverse, German immigrant population.

Wald, her parents, and her three siblings moved to Rochester, New York, when Wald was ten years old. The Walds were “worldly, cultured, comfortable, and secular,” and the family was liberal and progressive, a worldview that influenced Wald's life-long work.⁵ Her family sought to assimilate into the American-born white upper middle class in Rochester and, although they were Jewish, they did not wish to be identified solely as Jewish, religiously or culturally. As a young girl, Wald attended Miss Cruttenden's college preparatory school, where she studied both English and French.⁶ Her parents expected her to attend college and later to become a wife and mother. Wald applied to Vassar College—then a women's college—at the age of sixteen but was denied admission because she was too young.

Shortly after, Wald met a nurse who was tending to her ailing sister, Julia. Wald had not previously considered nursing as a viable career but was immediately attracted to the idea of working and helping people. In 1889, she applied to the New York Hospital Training School for Nurses (now the Cornell University School of Nursing) in Manhattan. She wrote in her application:

I may say that I have had advantages of what might be called a good education, knowing Latin, and able to speak both French and German...My life hitherto has been—I presume—a type of modern American young womanhood, days devoted to society, study and housekeeping duties, such as practical mothers consider essential to a daughter's education. This does not satisfy me now. I feel the need for serious, definite work....⁷

³ Tyler Anbinder, *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2016), 419.

⁴ Marjorie N. Feld, *Lillian Wald: A Biography* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008), 21.

⁵ Anbinder, 419.

⁶ Anbinder, 419.

⁷ Ellen Snyder-Grenier, *The House on Henry Street: The Enduring Life of a Lower East Side Settlement* (New York: New York University Press, 2020), 15.

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Wald graduated from nursing school in 1891 and began working at the New York Juvenile Asylum in upper Manhattan. She was there for only a short time, deciding instead to enroll in the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary—founded by Drs. Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, the first and third female doctors in the United States, respectively, and located at Second Avenue and East Twelfth Street in Manhattan.⁸ The Blackwell sisters in 1858 had established the New York Infirmary for Women and Children at 58 Bleecker Street, which was the first hospital for, staffed by, and run by women (they established it, in part, because middle- and upper-class women would not patronize female doctors). It provided free medical care for indigent women and children, as well as valuable practical training for women aspiring to have medical careers. The Women's Medical College, started in 1868, was the first women's medical school and hospital in the United States. Wald attended the Women's Medical College while it was under the leadership of Dr. Emily Blackwell (who was in a long-term romantic relationship with Dr. Elizabeth Cushier, a professor at the medical school) and thus would have been profoundly influenced by one of the female pioneers of American medicine. While in medical school, Wald taught a wellness class for immigrant mothers at the Louis Down-Town Sabbath and Daily School at 265 Henry Street (the same building that would later become her home).

One rainy, cold March morning in 1893, twenty-six-year-old nurse Wald was teaching when a young girl interrupted the class, exclaiming that her mother—one of Wald's students—was dying after giving birth in a nearby tenement. Wald followed the little girl a few blocks to Ludlow Street, where she found the mother lying on a blood-soaked mattress in her apartment, hemorrhaging after childbirth. The doctor had left because the family couldn't pay his fee. The apartment was a three-room space, approximately 300 square feet, and was typical of tenement apartments in the neighborhood. It housed ten people; there was no running water, no toilet inside, and very little light and air. Wald was shocked by what she saw but was able to nurse the woman back to health over the course of the next few days.

This was a turning point for Wald—what she called in her memoir, *The House on Henry Street*, a “Baptism of Fire.”⁹ Wald recalled years later, “All the maladjustments of our social and economic relations seemed epitomized in this brief journey and what was found at the end of it.”¹⁰ She had not previously seen the conditions of poverty up close; she didn't know that a person could be left to die because they couldn't pay for

⁸ Carol Clauson, “‘That Girl There Is Doctor In Medicine’: Elizabeth Blackwell, America's First Woman M.D.,” *U.S. National Library of Medicine*, July 7, 2018. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/blackwell/career.html>.

⁹ Wald, 7.

¹⁰ Wald, 6.

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medical care. Wald never returned to the world of academia and, from that point on, dedicated her life to providing free and affordable nursing care and social services to her Lower East Side neighbors.

The Progressive Era, the Settlement House Movement, and the Role of Women

At the turn-of-the-twentieth century, immigrants—mainly from Eastern and Southern Europe—arrived in New York Harbor every day by the thousands and many continued on to the Lower East Side. The Lower East Side, referred to as the “Gateway to America,” was a first stopping point for new immigrants, mainly due to its proximity to where the boats arrived. In this vibrant community, immigrants could more easily find affordable housing in the tenements, work in the growing number of factories, and socialize with people who spoke their native language and came from similar cultures. At the turn-of-the-twentieth century, the Lower East Side was the most densely populated place in the world. Many of the tenements in the area didn’t have running water, indoor toilets, or adequate light and air due to very few housing laws. Workers labored in factories in unsafe conditions for long hours, with no minimum wage. Child labor was rampant, and many families relied on their children to work to help supplement the household income. Many residents got sick and didn’t have access to medical care.

Progressive reformers sought to correct these conditions. The Progressive Era—which spanned the period from the 1880s to the 1920s—was a time of massive nationwide political and social change that precipitated a multifaceted reform movement. During this era, the United States was rapidly industrializing and urbanizing, both as a result of and an impetus to massive immigration. Many Progressive reformers sought to close the ever-widening gap between the poor and the ultra-wealthy, to provide services for the country’s new immigrant population, and to push the government to take a more active role in protecting its citizens. Progressives pushed for housing laws and workplace regulations and pressed the government to provide protections to immigrants and to provide social services to the country’s most vulnerable. However, it should also be noted that the Progressive Era reform movement was complicated and that not all reformers were motivated by altruism. Some Progressives were motivated by the fear that immigrants would change the nation in negative ways. They believed that the country would spiral downward if they did not intervene. Some espoused eugenics, an ugly movement that sought to breed out “undesirable” traits.

Women had an overwhelming impact on the Progressive Era reform movement, and, of those, many were lesbians (though they likely did not use that term to identify their sexuality at that time). This group made

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significant contributions to medicine, education, public health, and labor conditions in the early twentieth century. Women Progressive reformers who formed romantic partnerships with other women, in addition to Lillian Wald, include Mary E. Dreier and Frances A. Kellor, a couple that dedicated their lives to labor reform, suffrage, and assisting immigrants and African American women; Anna Rochester and Grace Hutchins, a couple that founded the Labor Research Association and was deeply involved in efforts to improve labor conditions, especially for women, with a special interest in conditions for African American women; Marion Dickerman, an educator who was involved with the Todhunter School, a progressive school for girls, and her partner, Nancy Cook, who became the head of the women's division of the State Democratic Committee; partners Mary Dewson and Polly Porter, who were social reformers in Massachusetts before moving to New York City, where Dewson worked with the New York Consumers' League; and Elisabeth Irwin, who founded the Little Red School House, often considered New York City's first progressive school, and her partner, Katharine Anthony, a social researcher and feminist biographer. All of these women formed long-lasting, often lifelong, relationships.

The settlement house movement was a central part of the Progressive Era reform movement, and another area in which women made overwhelmingly significant contributions. Historians Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Blanche Wiesen Cook, and Lillian Faderman discussed the emergence, in the late nineteenth century, of educated middle-class women who were economically and socially autonomous and rejected traditional gender roles and the male-run family structure. These first-generation "New Women" were associated with such fields as social reform, public health, education, medicine, business, art, and literature. Smith-Rosenberg notes that these pioneering women:

...transformed the settlement houses, borrowed initially from British male reformers, into predominantly female institutions. Whereas male settlement-house residents averaged a stay of six years, women residents often remained a lifetime. The settlement house represented their home, their fellow women residents, their family. A sororial intensity marked the inner dynamics of the settlement house, just as it did the women's college. College women and settlement-house residents called one another "sister." Teachers and settlement-house founders were loved as "mothers."¹¹

Lillian Wald, of Henry Street Settlement, belonged to this first generation of New Women. Smith-Rosenberg adds, "Like college students, many of these women settlement-house residents formed passionate relationships

¹¹ Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 254.

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with one another. Some felt that they had married for life.”¹² She cited such prominent examples as Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago, and Mary Rozet Smith, her partner of forty years and a trustee and benefactor of Hull House; Jeannette Marks and Mary Woolley, life partners who lived together in the president’s house at Mount Holyoke College; Vida Scudder and Florence Converse, Wellesley College professors who were actively involved in the College Settlement House in New York City; and M. Carey Thomas, the second president of Bryn Mawr College, who lived there first with Mamie Gwinn and then with Mary Garrett (all three were founders of Bryn Mawr School, a prep school in Baltimore).¹³ While there had been examples of women in the nineteenth century who were pushing for social and political change (for instance, early suffragists and the Blackwell sisters), these were largely isolated cases. In contrast, networks of all-women institutions at colleges and settlement houses created a female-empowered political force for the first time in American history, establishing the foundations of the Progressive Era reform movement and leading to significant social changes and reforms between the 1880s and World War I.

The first settlement house, Toynbee Hall, was founded in 1884 by Samuel and Henrietta Barnett in the densely populated, poor community of the East End of London, England.¹⁴ The idea of a settlement house was to “settle” into predominantly immigrant and low-income neighborhoods to provide medical and social services, at a time when the government provided few public benefits or social welfare programs. The settlement house concept spread to the United States a few years after Toynbee Hall opened, when the first settlement house in the nation—the Neighborhood Guild (now University Settlement) at the corner of Eldridge Street and Rivington Street on Manhattan’s Lower East Side—opened in 1886. Over 60 percent of settlement house workers were women, and most were middle class, college-educated, and born in the United States.¹⁵ Settlement houses sprouted up in other major U.S. cities, such as Chicago and Boston. The settlement house movement was truly a *movement*; in 1891 there were six settlement houses in the United States; twenty years later, there were over four hundred.¹⁶

Well-known Progressive Era reformers include Jacob Riis (the photojournalist known for pioneering flash photography in dark Lower East Side tenements and author of the 1890 book *How the Other Half Lives*), Jane Addams (activist and a leader of the settlement house movement), Frances Perkins (a workers’ rights activist

¹² Smith-Rosenberg, 254.

¹³ Smith-Rosenberg, 254.

¹⁴ Snyder-Grenier, 19-20.

¹⁵ Snyder-Grenier, 20.

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and U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945), Al Smith (future governor of New York), President Theodore Roosevelt, and many others.

Henry Street Settlement

Henry Street Settlement (originally named the Nurses' Settlement) was founded in 1893. After Wald's "Baptism of Fire," she approached a wealthy German-Jewish couple, banker Solomon Loeb and his wife, Betty Loeb, who owned the Louis Down-Town Sabbath and Daily School, to fund her venture.¹⁷ The Loeb's son-in-law, banker Jacob Schiff—who would become the main benefactor of the settlement and Wald's lifelong friend and confidante—financed Wald and her nursing school colleague, Mary Brewster, to move into a tenement at 27 Jefferson Street (since demolished, now the site of Gouverneur Hospital) on the Lower East Side to provide nursing services. After two years on Jefferson Street, Schiff purchased a rowhouse at 265 Henry Street to be the settlement house's permanent home (still its headquarters today), donating the building to Henry Street Settlement in 1903. When Wald moved the operation to 265 Henry Street, she changed the name of the settlement to "Henry Street Settlement." Brewster left the settlement shortly after it moved to Henry Street because she was ailing.

Wald lived at 265 Henry Street [and, after 1908, at 267 Henry Street as well] from 1895 to 1933. The settlement—at all times of day and evening—was alive with people—settlement house workers, neighbors, and American and international visitors who came to discuss ideas of public health, activism, and social reform. Reflecting the original idea of a settlement house—to live in the neighborhood that one serves—the nurses, numbering ten to fifteen at a time, lived in small attic rooms at the settlement's headquarters. The 1900 United States Census records twelve people living at 265 Henry Street – Wald, eight nurses (one of whom was also a teacher), two servants, and the child of one servant. In 1910, Wald shared the settlement with four other nurses and a social worker, and in 1915 the New York State Census records three social workers, a nurse, a librarian, and a city worker (the 1910 and 1915 census listings combined 265 and 267 Henry Street). The nurses who worked with Wald came from many different states. Although Wald and the major benefactors of the Henry Street Settlement came from the German-Jewish community and the settlement was located in the heart of the Eastern European Jewish community on New York's Lower East Side, most of the trained nurses who worked with Wald were not from the Jewish community.

¹⁶ Snyder-Grenier, 20.

¹⁷ Snyder-Grenier, 22.

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The three row houses that compose the settlement's headquarters (263, 265, and 267 Henry Street) were all built around 1830. They were constructed as stylish single-family homes for wealthy merchants at a time when the neighborhood was a prosperous area of the city. As more working-class immigrants—predominantly German and Irish immigrants—settled in the area in the mid-1800s, wealthy families migrated uptown. No. 265 Henry Street was the first building to serve as the settlement's headquarters; 267 Henry Street was acquired by the settlement in 1908, and 263 Henry Street was acquired in 1934 (after Wald's period of residence). Nos. 265 and 267 were apparently internally connected as early as 1906; however, an external connection was established between all three building in the 1970s (after Wald's death) through a new hallway extension at the rear of the first floor (the original brick exterior wall and fenestration were retained and are still visible from the hallway).

The dining room (located on the first floor of 267 Henry Street, one floor above the former basement level) was used as a multi-purpose room for the settlement, to host classes, performances, and dinner parties. Every morning, nurses used the space to discuss their cases, and they convened again in the evenings after a long day of visiting patients. The playground was constantly in use—in the mornings, it served as an informal kindergarten; in the afternoon, older children came to play after school; and in the evenings, it was a place for teenagers and adults to socialize and for labor organizers to meet. There were various multi-purpose rooms throughout the building that were used to host a variety of classes and clubs.

Initially, the primary activity of Henry Street Settlement was the visiting nurses' service. Other settlement houses hosted on-site clinics, but at Henry Street Settlement Wald emphasized that it was vital to go out into the community to reach the people who needed help most. Wald spent time observing conditions on the Lower East Side and asking families what their needs were, and she estimated that about 90 percent of people who were sick stayed at home sick instead of seeking medical attention at a hospital.¹⁸ Lower East Side residents faced numerous hurdles accessing health care, including the high cost of treatment, language barriers, discrimination, long hours at work, and lack of childcare. Henry Street Settlement's visiting nurses circumvented many of these issues by treating people in their homes. To communicate with her Yiddish-speaking neighbors, Wald spoke German, a language closely related to Yiddish. In addition to treating sick patients, they provided preventive care and maternity services and instructed their patients in practicing hygiene. The nurses were on the front lines of treating the city's most pressing contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, cholera, and influenza (including treating patients during the 1918 influenza pandemic).

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Every patient, regardless of income, was provided access to top-quality care. Wald instructed the nurses to treat every patient with dignity and respect, no matter how poor they were or the condition of their homes. Especially at a time of rising anti-immigrant sentiment, Wald's objective was radical—to take the onus off the individual. Many Americans reproached new immigrants for being poor, for living in neighborhoods that were dirty, and for getting sick. Poverty and sickness were understood as moral failings and faults of the individual. Wald considered sickness and health through the lens of environmental factors such as sanitation, housing conditions, and workplace conditions. For this nursing work, Wald is known for pioneering—and for coining the term—“public health nursing.”

The visiting nurse service quickly expanded. Pursuing equity for underserved racial and ethnic groups throughout the city, the agency opened branches of its visiting nurse service beyond the Lower East Side. As the settlement expanded and opened new branches of the visiting nurse service, a handful of nurses lived onsite at each branch and others commuted to work. By 1907, Henry Street Settlement employed thirty trained nurses: twelve, including Wald, lived at the headquarters on the Lower East Side; thirteen lived at other branches of the settlement located throughout the city, and five oversaw operations citywide.¹⁹ By 1933—the year that Wald retired—approximately 265 nurses had been employed by the settlement, making half a million home visits to over 100,000 clients.²⁰

To serve the growing Black population in New York City, in 1906, Henry Street Settlement opened a branch of the visiting nurse service—the Stillman House—that started out of a storefront on West 61st Street in the city's then-largest Black neighborhood, San Juan Hill, located on the west side of Manhattan.²¹ (The majority of San Juan Hill was demolished in the 1950s as part of the Lincoln Square Urban Renewal project.) In the early twentieth century, the Black population in New York City dramatically increased, as millions of African Americans migrated from the U.S. South to northern cities (known as the “Great Migration”) looking for work and a safer environment to live. Nurse Elizabeth Tyler—the first African American nurse hired by Henry Street Settlement—with the help of Wald, founded the settlement's Stillman House branch. When Tyler was hired, she sought out patients in San Juan Hill by talking to building janitors and tenants to figure out who needed help the

¹⁸ Wald, 28.

¹⁹ Snyder-Grenier, 38.

²⁰ Greg Young, “Saving the City: Women of the Progressive Era,” *The Bowery Boys*, July 25, 2019.

²¹ Rhonda Evans, “San Juan Hill and the Black Nurses of the Stillman Settlement,” *New York Public Library*, January 16, 2020. www.nypl.org/blog/2019/12/01/san-juan-hill-black-nurses-stillman-settlement.

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most.²² The residents of San Juan Hill faced many of the same conditions as residents of the Lower East Side—overcrowded housing, lack of basic amenities in their homes (such as clean water, toilets, light, air), and little access to health care—but for the residents of San Juan Hill, these conditions were worsened by structural anti-Black racism.

The visiting nurses across Henry Street Settlement’s branches engaged in work far beyond the realm of nursing. The visiting nurses were early social workers (at a time when one could not receive a degree in social work). Spending time in their neighbors’ homes, they got to know the families and their daily struggles. They were aware if a parent needed employment, if a child went to school hungry, or if a family was not able to pay its rent. In response, the nurses started a vast range of programs to address their neighbors’ needs beyond nursing care. The nurses helped adults find employment, and the settlement expanded services to include classes and clubs of all kinds at both the settlement’s headquarters at 265 Henry Street and at the branches in other parts of the city. There were classes for new parents, cooking classes, woodworking and knitting, and civics and English lessons to help immigrant adults settle into American life.²³ Taking a radical approach at the turn of the twentieth century, Henry Street Settlement provided immigrants with resources and tools to succeed in their new home, while not pushing assimilation as the ultimate goal.

Henry Street Settlement also offered summer camps in upstate New York: Camp Henry for boys and Echo Hill Farm for girls, and a vast array of art classes, including theater, music, visual arts, and dance. In the early 1900s, the arts programming was run by Irene and Alice Lewisohn—sisters from a wealthy uptown German-Jewish family and friends of Wald who volunteered at the settlement. In 1915, the Lewisohn sisters donated the money to build the Henry Street Neighborhood Playhouse at 466 Grand Street, a permanent house for arts programming at Henry Street.²⁴ Wald believed that all people should have access to the arts regardless of income and that being creative was part of being a full person. This was a progressive idea at a time when the arts were viewed by many as a luxury for the elite. Many of the early performances at the playhouse were productions in Yiddish, the native language of many of the people who lived in the neighborhood. The playhouse continuously redefined its role as an arts center under the umbrella of a social services agency;

²² Rhonda Evans, “San Juan Hill and the Black Nurses of the Stillman Settlement.”

²³ Snyder-Grenier, 43.

²⁴ The playhouse is not included in this nomination. However, it is part of the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark listings for the Henry Street Settlement.

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shifting between being a venue that primarily served—and featured—the local community and one that attracted arts aficionados and donors to the Lower East Side.

Wald believed it was not enough to provide direct services; it was also essential to fight for structural changes. She used her connections with wealthy philanthropists and politicians to fight for the rights of marginalized people. Wald advocated for the rights of children by pushing for free school lunches, special education classes, nurses in public schools, child labor laws, and the nation's first municipally built playground (Seward Park on the Lower East Side). In 1898, with Charles B. Stover of University Settlement, Wald founded the Outdoor Recreation League. The league founded nine playgrounds throughout Manhattan from 1898 to 1902, when New York City took over their operation.

Wald pushed for housing and workplace laws and provided resources and space at the settlement for labor unions to meet. She supported the women's suffrage movement. She advocated for immigrants by opposing restrictive immigration laws (including those leading up to the passage of the Johnson Reed Act in 1924) and anti-immigrant sentiment. On October 4, 1917, as World War I raged on, Henry Street nurses, alongside Red Cross nurses, marched down Fifth Avenue advocating for peace. Throughout World War I, the Henry Street nurses, despite the shortage of nurses on the home front, supported the families with loved ones who were drafted, especially families who didn't have enough food. At a 1917 settlement board meeting, Wald said, "Trouble has come and we are ready to meet it...and I, for one, am glad that we are not only able to serve our own community but to help far and wide, directly and indirectly."²⁵

Wald fought for the rights of African Americans as a co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), founded in 1909. On May 30, 1909, the group that went on to found the NAACP met for the first time in Henry Street Settlement's historic dining room. Outraged by the constant violence against Black Americans, an interracial group of activists put out "a call" on February 12, 1909, to "believers in democracy to join in a national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty."²⁶ This call—signed by an interracial group of sixty activists, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett (journalist), Mary Church Terrell (suffragist and civil rights activist), Mary White Ovington (suffragist and civil rights activist), John Dewey

²⁵ Synder-Grenier, 69.

²⁶ Patricia Sullivan, *Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement* (New York: The New Press, 2009), 6.

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(philosopher and educational reformer), Jane Addams, Florence Kelley (nurse at Henry Street Settlement, suffragist, and labor activist), Mary E. Dreier (labor reformer and suffragist), and Lillian Wald.²⁷ Two to three hundred activists gathered in New York City on the weekend of May 31 to June 1, 1909, to meet at the Charity Organization Hall near Union Square.²⁸ The opening reception of the conference was held in Henry Street Settlement's dining room. This group of activists came together—standing room only—for both formal and informal conversation.

World leaders came to Henry Street Settlement to discuss issues of social welfare, public health, and civil rights. Wald was known for the dinners she hosted where she invited neighborhood residents and labor organizers to meet directly with politicians and those with money and political sway. Wald called this “the power of association”—the idea of meeting face-to-face to share differing perspectives and to work together to solve societal problems. Visitors to the settlement included: Emmeline Pankhurst (British suffragist), Ramsay MacDonald (founder of Great Britain's Labour Party and, later, prime minister), Catherine Breshkovsky (Russian revolutionary), and the aforementioned Jacob Riis, Herbert Lehman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Al Smith, Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. DuBois, Jane Addams, Amelia Earhart, and Frances Perkins. Rising to prominence for her labor activism after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911, Perkins—who would go on to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945—was a frequent visitor to the settlement and attendee of Wald's dinner parties. (Perkins was married to economist Paul C. Wilson and had a romantic relationship with Mary Harriman Rumsey, founder of The Junior League, when the two lived together in Washington, D.C.) Perkins described Wald's ability to facilitate conversation at her dinner table:

[Wald] turned the conversation to life in the city of New York, the working people, where they lived, how they lived, the general living conditions of the area around Henry Street, why you had to have settlements. She would draw out of each one of us in a tactful way something about what we had been seeing. ‘Now Frances, what did you see? I know you’ve been making that investigation into cellar bakeries with Raymond Fosdick. I haven’t heard you say what you found.’ Then it was my turn to deliver what I had recently seen of the living and working conditions of the people of the great city. One person after another would comment. Tenement house inspectors were there, as were people who knew about factories and factory life and arrangements. That was the kind of thing that went on.²⁹

²⁷ Sullivan, 6.

²⁸ Sullivan, 6.

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Lillian Wald's Residence at 265 and 267 Henry Street

The buildings at 265 and 267 Henry Street were where Lillian Wald lived and worked until her retirement in 1933. It is important to note that Henry Street Settlement was, from the beginning, a communal living space and, therefore, all rooms were used by many people (including staff, neighborhood residents, and visitors) and for many activities (such as meetings by the settlement staff or visiting groups, or playground and classroom use by neighborhood residents). Even Wald's bedroom, which included a sitting room, was not strictly private during the day, since she hosted information gatherings here with children who were taking classes or using the facilities that the settlement offered. The multi-purpose use of every room was essential to Wald's understanding of her home environment and how she moved throughout the day. It also illustrates one of the significant ways in which "New Women" reimagined residential life for women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, separate from the traditional male-dominated family structure that characterized most women's lives to that point.

Wald moved into 265 in 1895, two years after the settlement's founding, and her bedroom was located in the rear of the second floor (one level above the foyer). It was slightly larger than those of the other nurses, who slept in small rooms in the attic (one floor above). Attached to her room was a large "sleeping porch," designed to accommodate sleeping outside on hot evenings. Wald's porch, which is extant, looked out over a backyard that, around 1895, she converted into a playground (now, a garden). Her bedroom is now a conference room and meeting space – reflecting the fact that the building is still part of an active settlement house – but the architectural features are highly intact to Wald's time.

In 1906, Wald's living space (and the settlement's services) expanded into 267 Henry Street, which is where she dined with other nurses in the dining room on the first floor (one level above the basement level). The dining room is highly intact to Wald's time. She also socialized and held dinner parties and important meetings here, either related to the settlement's services or as a host for guests. Every morning, she and the other nurses used the space to discuss their cases, and they convened again in the evenings after a long day of visiting patients.

²⁹ Snyder-Grenier, 48-49.

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Lillian Wald's Romantic and Platonic Relationships with Women of the Henry Street Settlement

During Wald's adult life, she spent most of her time surrounded by women—women who were her lifelong friends, confidantes, and, in some cases, romantic partners. Wald's relationships with these women are not a small detail of her personal history and that of the settlement house; understanding these relationships is fundamental to understanding Henry Street's origins. Wald called these women—both platonic friends and romantic partners—"the Family."³⁰ Wald actively chose a life that did not require her to marry; the women who helped Wald start Henry Street Settlement were her family. Wald's primary family members were Ysabella Waters, Anne Goodrich, Florence Kelley, Helen McDowell, and Lavinia Dock. They worked, lived, and vacationed together for over fifty years.³¹ (There are no known romantic relationships between Lillian Wald and these women, but we know of a few relationships with other women who were involved at the settlement, discussed below.)

Beyond "the family," Wald collaborated with other lesbian women social reformers, most notably, Jane Addams, co-founder, in 1889, of the Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago. Addams and Wald were close friends who regularly collaborated and exchanged ideas, and both were among the most socially and politically progressive settlement house workers (Addams, like Wald, was a co-founder of the NAACP.) Jane Addams visited Henry Street Settlement many times over the years. Addams lived with her romantic partner, the wealthy philanthropist Mary Rozet Smith (who also visited Henry Street Settlement), for over forty years. At the time, relationships like that of Jane Addams and Mary Rozet Smith—long-term, romantic relationships between two women—were referred to as "Boston Marriages." Traditional biographers of Addams classified her as asexual, despite the fact that, according to historian Lillian Faderman, the couple "always slept in the same room and the same bed, and when they traveled Jane even wired ahead to be sure they would get a hotel room with a double bed...."³² Addams's relationship with Smith was much more public than any of Wald's romantic relationships, but despite Addams's visibility, she was still assumed to be asexual. This is what historian Blanche Wiesen Cook calls "the historical denial of lesbianism."³³

³⁰ Snyder-Grenier, 32.

³¹ Blanche Wiesen Cook, "Female Support Networks and Political Activism: Lillian Wald, Crystal Eastman, Emma Goldman," *Homosexuality and Government, Politics, and Prison*, edited by Wayne R. Dynes and Stephen Donaldson (New York: Garland Publishing, 1992), 49.

³² Lillian Faderman, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), 25.

³³ Wiesen Cook, 45.

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According to a guest book in Henry Street Settlement's archives, German feminists and long-term romantic partners Anita Augspurg and Lida Gustava Heymann visited the settlement in March of 1924. Augspurg, a lawyer, writer, and activist, wrote in the settlement's guest book: "How I love this house with its splendid spirits and its splendid women, with its hospitality, kindness and activity in peace & freedom!" Augspurg was a widely recognized activist for women's liberation, writing for many feminist newspapers and magazines. Both Augspurg and Heymann fought for women's rights and suffrage and for peace in Europe and resistance to Hitler leading up to World War II. Additionally, Vida Dutton Scudder, lesbian writer, social reformer, and professor at Wellesley College, corresponded with Wald. Scudder founded the College Settlements Association, which started a settlement house, Denison House, in Boston in 1892. (Amelia Earhart was a social worker at the Denison House before she was a pilot; she visited Henry Street Settlement in 1925.) Scudder was in a romantic partnership for more than sixty years with Florence Converse, a writer and her former student.



Members of "the Family." Back row: Jane Hitchcock, Sue Foote, Jeanne Travis. Middle row: Mary Magoun Brown, Lavinia Dock, Lillian Wald, Ysabella G. Waters, Henrietta van Cleft. Front row: neighborhood children Sammy Brofsky and Florrie Long. Courtesy of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York Records, Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library.

In the 1970s, Wiesen Cook researched 150 boxes of Wald's letters archived at Columbia University and the New York Public Library. Wiesen Cook found letters that point clearly to Wald's romantic relationships with at least two women, lawyer Helen Arthur and socialite Mabel Hyde Kittredge. Neither of these relationships was long term.

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Mabel Hyde Kittredge, from a wealthy uptown family, was the daughter of the Reverend Abbott E. Kittredge, who led the congregation at Madison Avenue Reformed Church on Fifty Seventh Street.³⁴ In the early 1900s, Kittredge lived at Henry Street for several years and moved out on Wald's request.³⁵ She continued to be actively involved with Henry Street after she left by helping Wald start the New York City school lunch program in 1908 and founding the Association of Practical Housekeeping Centers, an active partner of the settlement for many years.³⁶

Wiesen Cook writes that though Wald and Kittredge were close, trusted friends and partners and relied on each other for many years, it is clear from Kittredge's letters that she demanded more of Wald than Wald could give.

But what business has a great grown woman like myself to sit up in her nightclothes and write nothings...I am getting altogether too close to you Lady Wald – or is it...all those doors that you have pushed open for me? Half open-dear-just half open...And then I come up here and grow hungry for more knowledge...And I feel my strength ends and love you so...I feel your arms around me as you say I really must go.³⁷

In many of the letters, Kittredge expresses frustration that Wald is consumed with her work at the settlement: “No wonder I am called ‘one of your crushes’...it is kiss and run or run without kissing—there really isn't time for anything else...”³⁸

The lines between romantic and platonic were not always clearly drawn. Wiesen Cook speaks of two terms in particular that surface in the letters—“steadies” and “crushes.” These two terms were not clearly defined although they refer to the range of relationships that fluctuated between romantic and platonic. As Wiesen Cook points out, “crushes” likely refers more to short-term romantic partners and “steadies” refers to close friends (like the family members who lived at the settlement).³⁹

Tucked into one of Kittredge's letters from 1904 is a playful poem called “The Caller.” (The author of the poem is unknown, but it is likely written by Kittredge.) The poem describes the fun and pleasure of a predominantly female environment at the settlement:

³⁴ Wiesen Cook, 51.

³⁵ Wiesen Cook 50-51. It is not clear why Wald asked Kittredge to leave the settlement.

³⁶ Wiesen Cook, 51.

³⁷ Wiesen Cook, 51.

³⁸ Wiesen Cook, 51.

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Busy! Who said I was busy?
Walk right in? of course you can.
Here's the parlor: dine in next room.
Yes, all women. No, no men.
Yes, we like it – Pray, excuse me.
But I think the door bell rang.⁴⁰

By the summer of 1906, Wald began spending significant time with romantic partner Helen Arthur, a lawyer and director of the research department at the Women's Municipal League.⁴¹ Wiesen Cook writes that Wald had a maternal dynamic with Arthur: "she coaxed Arthur out of repeated depressions, encouraged her law practice, managed her finances, and kept her bankbook so that she would not overspend."⁴² In one letter to Wald, who was then traveling, Arthur exclaims that her "mother" (Wald) left her "naughty son" (Arthur) alone.⁴³ Like Kittredge, Arthur writes to Wald, frequently expressing wishes that they had more time together.

If I had you, the real you instead of one-ten-thousandth part of you, I might shove the unworthy things way off – Summertime has spoiled the judge [Arthur] who longs to get back to your comfortable lap and the delights of kicking her pajammaed [sic] legs in peace and comfort instead of being solicitously hustled from your room at 10 o'clock....⁴⁴

Arthur, unlike Kittredge, understood that the settlement needed Wald's attention. In 1907, Arthur wrote: "Little by little there is being brought in upon me, the presumption of my love for you – the selfishness of its demands, the triviality of its complaints...."⁴⁵ After their relationship ended, Arthur continued working at the Neighborhood Playhouse, helping to manage the finances of the arts center.

Documentation of LGBT couples living together in New York City before the 1920s is rare, thus making Henry Street Settlement significant as an early example of such a residence. A selection of other known couples include Augustus Graham and John Bell Graham, early nineteenth century Brooklyn philanthropists; Elizabeth M. Cushier and Emily Blackwell; Murray Hall, a gender non-conforming Tammany Hall politico, and Cecilia Florence Lowe, a schoolteacher; Elsie de Wolfe, often credited as America's first professional interior designer, and Elisabeth Marbury, a pioneering female theatrical producer; Alice Austen, pioneering female photographer,

³⁹ Wiesen Cook, 53.

⁴⁰ Lillian D. Wald papers, Columbia University Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection, Mabel Hyde Kittredge Correspondence Box 6, folder, "April 28, 1904."

⁴¹ Wiesen Cook, 52.

⁴² Wiesen Cook, 52.

⁴³ Wiesen Cook, 52.

⁴⁴ Wiesen Cook, 53.

⁴⁵ Wiesen Cook, 53.

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and Gertrude Tate, a schoolteacher; and J.C. Leyendecker, renowned commercial illustrator, and his partner, Charles Beach.⁴⁶

Although the women who lived at the settlement seem to have known about Wald's romantic relationships with women, Wald was not public about her relationships or her sexuality. This was typical of the first generation of New Women, who, as Carroll Smith-Rosenberg notes, stood in contrast to second- and third-generation New Women, who came of age in the first three decades of the twentieth century and "thought of sexual autonomy not as freedom from marital oppression but, in positive terms, as the right to sexual experimentation and self-expression. Bohemian Greenwich Village attracted radical New Women who, a generation earlier, would have flocked to women's settlement houses."⁴⁷ These were women who, she says,

...needed to discuss their sexual identity in a new sexual language. The New Woman of the first generation did not. In their fifties and sixties by the 1920s, the first generation with few exceptions would not or could not alter their Victorian romantic vocabulary. Sexual liberation emphatically was not *their* political issue. Strains developed between the successive generations of autonomous women. Jane Addams's and Lillian Wald's political alienation from Crystal Eastman—a cofounder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and a co-worker in social-justice causes—because of what they considered Eastman's sexual flamboyance illustrates the split's serious political consequences.⁴⁸

Even though Wald was not public about her romantic relationships with women, Wiesen Cook argues that "...Lillian Wald lived in a homosocial world that was also erotic. Her primary emotional needs and desires were fulfilled by women. She was woman-supported, woman-allied."⁴⁹ As is evident in the poem "The Caller," the women who lived at the settlement were satisfied to live in a space with "yes, all women. No, no men." Faderman argues that these New Women at the turn of the twentieth century "not only chose to live independently from men but also to have amorous and/or domestic relationships with other women."⁵⁰ Similarly, Wald spoke publicly about the meaningfulness of her community. In a speech to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the settlement, Wald says in regard to her community: "I made no sacrifices. My friend Mary Brewster [who helped Wald found the settlement] and I were engrossed in the edifice which was taking form and in which my friends and I might live together."⁵¹

⁴⁶ NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, www.nyclgbtsites.org.

⁴⁷ Smith-Rosenberg, 284.

⁴⁸ Smith-Rosenberg, 284.

⁴⁹ Wiesen Cook, 53.

⁵⁰ Lillian Faderman, Alice Austen presentation, Whitney Museum of American Art, 2016.

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Legacy of Lillian Wald at the Henry Street Settlement

Lillian Wald retired as the settlement's director—after forty years at the helm—in 1933, a watershed year in American history and the worst year of the Great Depression. Her health was failing, so she moved full-time to Westport, Connecticut, where she owned a house and had already built a community. Wald passed away from a brain hemorrhage in 1940 at the age of seventy-three. Although her involvement with Henry Street Settlement had ended, Wald nevertheless left a lasting influence that served as the backbone of the settlement's subsequent achievements from that time to the present day.

Wald was succeeded by social worker Helen Hall, who hailed from Philadelphia's University Settlement House, where she had been the director since 1922.⁵² Hall concentrated Henry Street Settlement's activities on social work and moved away from visiting nursing as the primary focus. (The Visiting Nurse Service of New York—which still exists—split off to be a separate organization from Henry Street Settlement by 1944.) In 1934, Hall joined a twenty-three-member group that advised President Franklin D. Roosevelt and helped to draft Social Security legislation.

Influenced by Wald's ideas around public health and social reform, Henry Street Settlement's groundbreaking work extended into the second half of the twentieth century. A few highlights include the formation of Mobilization for Youth in 1959, the first family shelter in the country; the Urban Family Center developed in 1972; and the New Federal Theatre (whose name was inspired by the Great Depression's Federal Theatre Project), founded by Woodie King Jr. in the early 1970s. The New Federal Theatre was a groundbreaking initiative that pushed to integrate people of color and women into mainstream theater. The New Federal Theatre still exists, operating from midtown Manhattan.

Henry Street Settlement's mental health clinic, the Community Consultation Center (CCC), one of the first of its kind in the country, founded in 1946, provided counseling for families affected by the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1988, New York City's Department of Mental Health named the settlement as the official provider of AIDS mental health services for the Lower East Side.⁵³

⁵¹ Wiesen Cook, 53.

⁵² Snyder-Grenier, 83.

⁵³ Snyder-Grenier, 161.

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Today, Henry Street Settlement serves over 50,000 New Yorkers every year in health care, social services, and the arts. These continue to be significant challenges for Lower East Siders, especially in a neighborhood with significant income disparity. The settlement remains at the center of the community and a place where New Yorkers can turn for help. The settlement's president, David Garza, refers to Wald's vision for the organization as a guiding light. The settlement's history provides a blueprint for making decisions in the present and for the future of the organization. Henry Street Settlement upholds its LGBT history as foundational to the origins of the settlement. Wald and the women who helped her start the settlement were able to achieve this vast amount of work only with the support of each other.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anbinder, Tyler. *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2016.

Clauson, Carol. "'That Girl There Is Doctor In Medicine': Elizabeth Blackwell, America's First Woman M.D." *U.S. National Library of Medicine*, July 7, 2018.
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Faderman, Lillian. *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991.

Feld, Marjorie N. *Lillian Wald: A Biography*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

Smith-Rosenberg, Carroll. *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Snyder-Grenier, Ellen. *The House on Henry Street: The Enduring Life of a Lower East Side Settlement*. New York: New York University Press, 2020.

Sullivan, Patricia. *Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: The New Press, 2009.

Wald, Lillian D. *The House on Henry Street*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1915.

Wiesen Cook, Blanche. "Female Support Networks and Political Activism: Lillian Wald, Crystal Eastman, Emma Goldman." *Homosexuality and Government, Politics, and Prison*. ed. Wayne R. Dynes and Stephen Donaldson. New York: Garland Publishing, 1992.

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Young, Greg. "Saving the City: Women of the Progressive Era." *The Bowery Boys*. n.p: July 25, 2019.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☒ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .10 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 585776 4507514
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was drawn to include the lots associated with the buildings at 365 and 367 Henry Street, which together served as Lillian Wald's home and workplace for the majority of her productive life. The building at 363 Henry Street, which is part of the Henry Street Settlement and internally connected to the other two, was omitted because it was acquired after Lillian Wald lived there.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew Dolkart, description; Katie Vogel, Jay Schockley & Amanda Davis, significance. Contact:

Kathleen LaFrank, NYSHPO

organization NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project

date October 2021

street & number 37 E. 12 St. 2E NY New York

telephone Zip 20011

Lillian Wald Residence

Name of Property

New York County, NY

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lillian Wald Residence

City or Vicinity: New York

County: New York

State: New York

Photographer: Andrew Dolkart
116 Pinehurst Ave, S-11
NY, NY 10003 (except for historic photos)

Date Photographed: September 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001: 265-267 Henry Street, view looking northeast
0002: 265-267 Henry Street, view looking northwest
0003: Henry Street, north side from no. 269, view looking northwest
0004: 265 Henry Street doorway, view looking north
0005: 267 Henry Street lower floor, view looking northeast
0006: 265 Henry Street, basement mantel, view looking north
0007: 265 Henry Street, first-floor entrance hall, view looking north
0008: 265 Henry Street, first-floor entrance hall, view looking south
0009: 265 Henry Street, newel post, view looking north
0010: 265 Henry Street, first-floor door enframingent, view looking west
0011: 265 Henry Street, first-floor double parlor, view looking northeast

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- 0012: 265 Henry Street, first-floor double parlor closet, view looking northeast
0013: 265 Henry Street, first-floor front parlor mantel, view looking southeast
0014: 265 Henry Street, second-floor Lillian Wald bedroom, view looking southeast
0015: 265 Henry Street, third-floor bedroom, view looking southwest
0016: 265 Henry Street, rear elevation, view looking south
0017: 265 Henry Street, second-floor rear sleeping porch, view looking west
0018: 265 Henry Street, rear year, view looking north
0019: 267 Henry Street, basement fireplace and oven, view looking northeast
0020: 267 Henry Street, first-floor hall, view looking south
0021: 267 Henry Street, first-floor double parlor, view looking south
0022: 267 Henry Street, second-floor front room, view looking southeast
0023: 267 Henry Street, third-floor bedroom, view looking south
0024: 267 Henry Street, third-floor wardrobe, view looking northwest
0025: 267 Henry Street, third-floor wardrobe hardware, view looking west
0026: 265 Henry Street, classroom in front parlor, early 20th century (photographer unknown)
0027: 267 Henry Street, music class in front parlor, early 20th century(photographer unknown)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name N/A
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Lillian Wald Residence

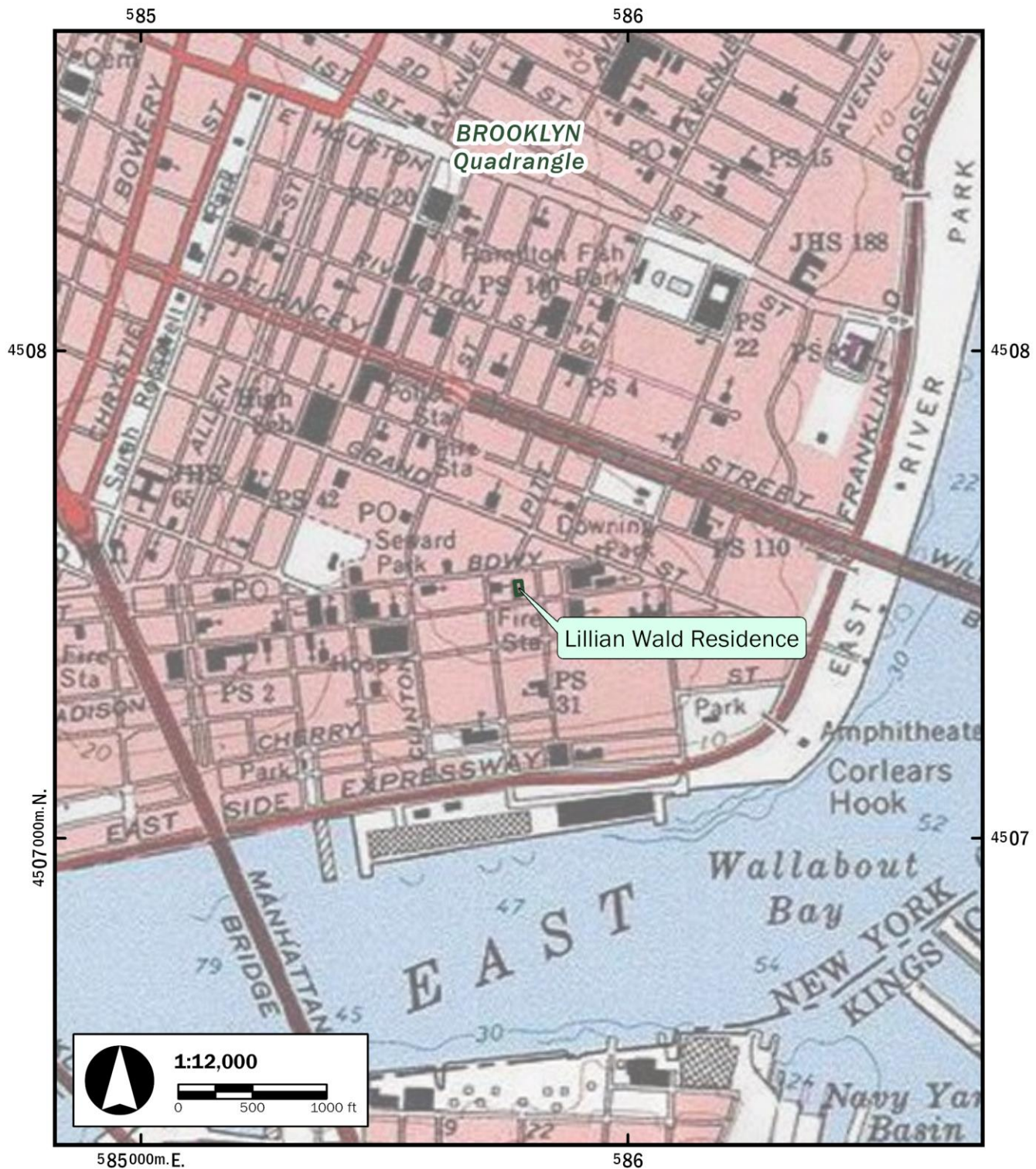
Name of Property

New York County, NY

County and State

Lillian Wald Residence
Borough of Manhattan, New York County, New York

265 and 267 Henry Street
New York, NY 10002



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter

 Lillian Wald Residence



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Lillian Wald Residence

Name of Property

New York County, NY

County and State

**Lillian Wald Residence
Borough of Manhattan, New York County, New York**

**265 and 267 Henry Street
New York, NY 10002**



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter
Parcel Year: 2021
Orthoimagery Year: 2020

 Nomination Boundary



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**





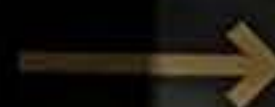




265



MAIN ENTRANCE
267 HENRY STREET



LILLIAN WALD HOUSE



THIS HOUSE ON HENRY STREET
DEDICATED TO LILLIAN WALD,
FOUNDER OF THE HENRY STREET
SETTLEMENT ON THE OCCASION
THE CENTENNIAL YEAR
1893 - 1993

LILLIAN WALD LIVED AND WORKED AT 265 HENRY STREET IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE, THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY AND ACROSS THE NATION.



HENRY STREET
DALE JONES BURCH
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
SETTLEMENT

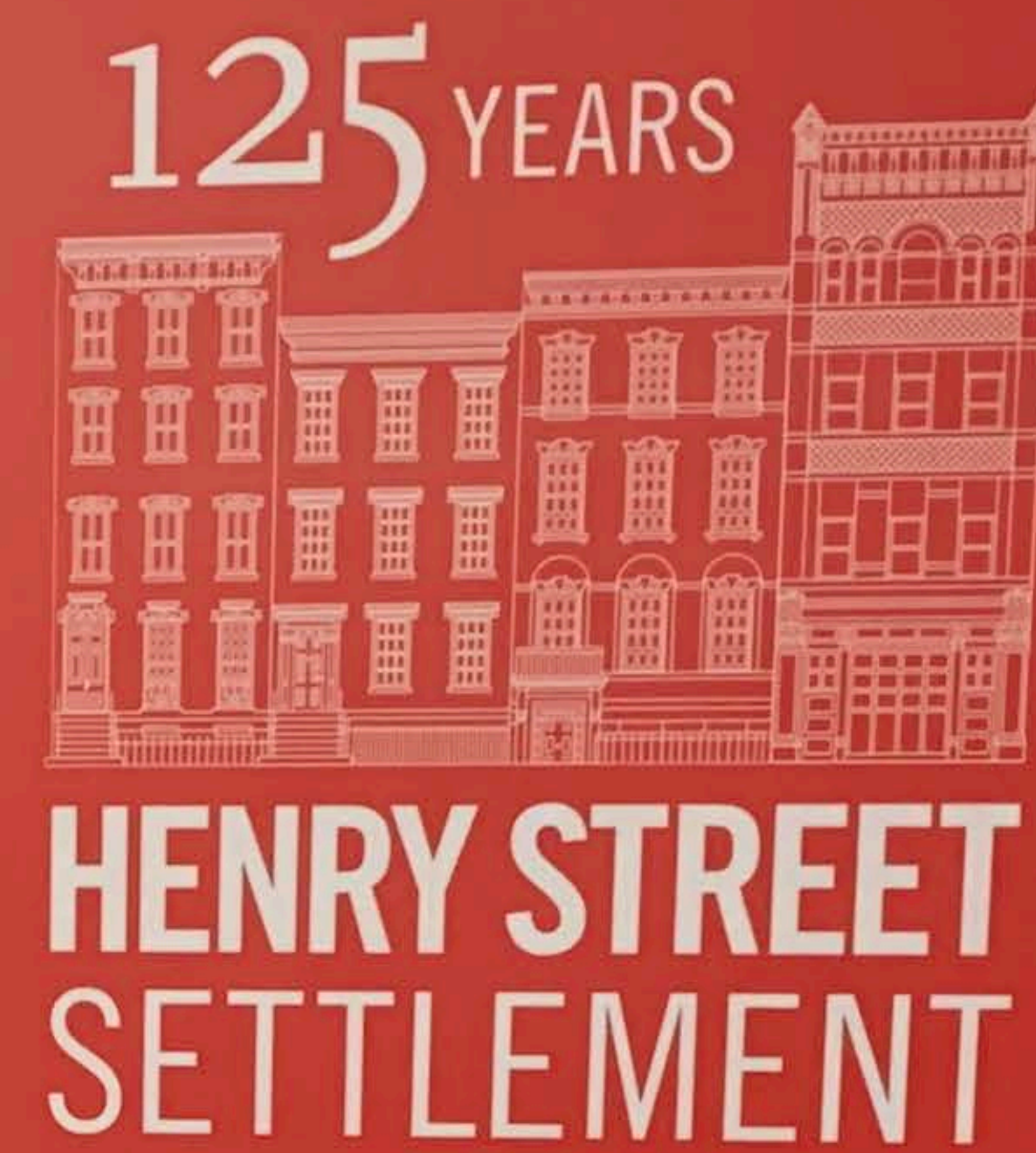
Welcome
Henry Street Settlement

In times of need, act.

For 125 years and counting, these beliefs
have guided **Henry Street Settlement.**

欢迎
Welcome.
Bienvenido
ברוכים-הבאים

- ▶ Exhibition
- ◀ Restrooms



Bao: "We are all one family."
The Power of Brotherhood and Sisterhood



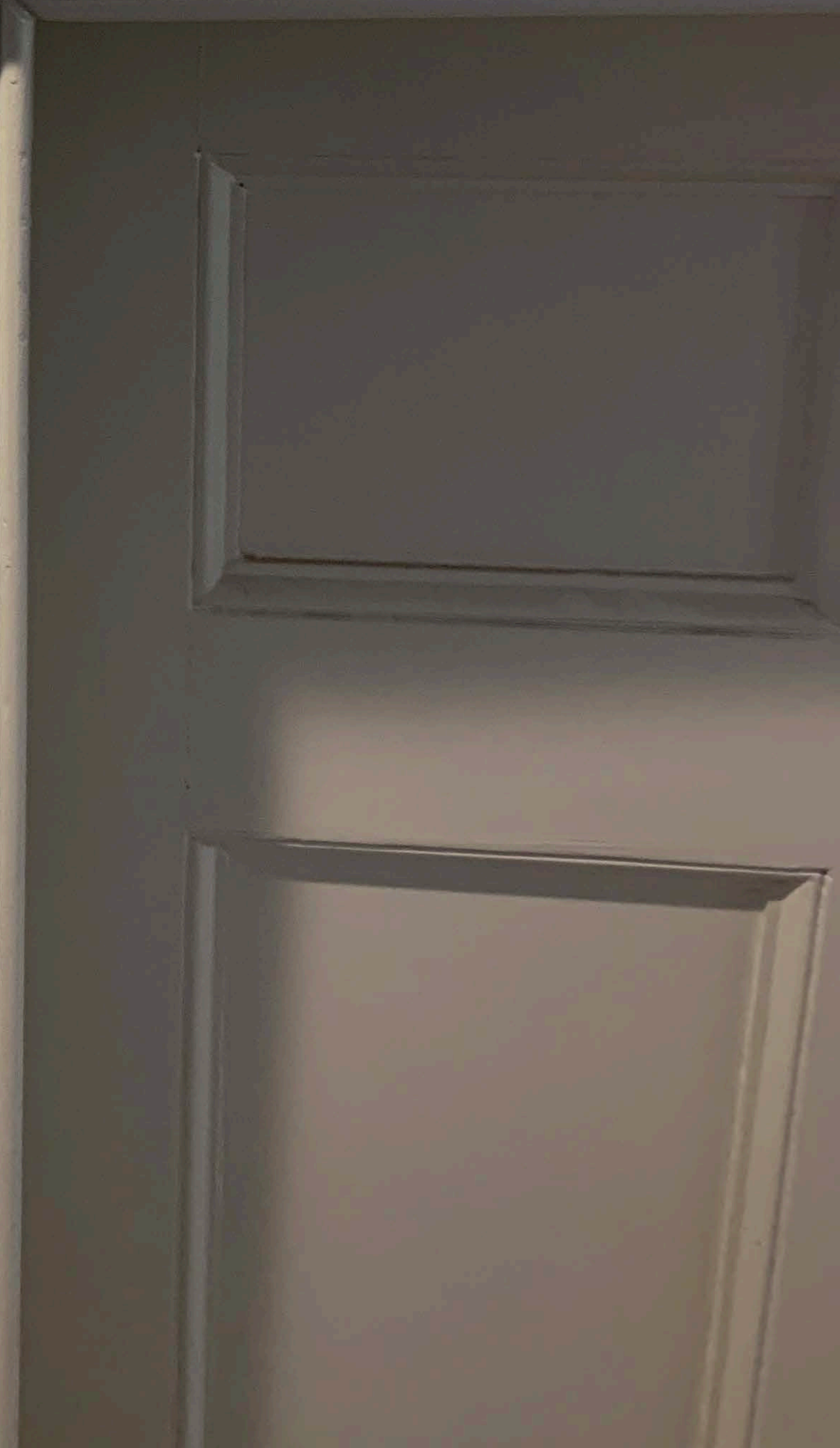
The green tiles that surround
this fireplace feature the
Chinese symbol "Bao."
In 1910, Lillian Wald—
Henry Street Settlement's
founder—chose it because
of its meaning and message:
We are all one family.





























LIVING W

Neighbors of
Nurses left of
This was the
265 Henry St
banker and b
a headquarter
"settled" here



263

Acquired in 1934







THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS
OF EDUCATION
ALL FOR THE ARTS
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
GOV. ARTS
RESPONSE HOLDING













Sarah Carroll
Chair

December 6, 2021

R. Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: Lillian Wald Residence, 265 & 267 Henry Street, Manhattan (Block 288, Lot 78)

Dear Deputy Commissioner Mackay:

I am writing on behalf of Chair Sarah Carroll in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the Lillian Wald Residence at 265 and 267 Henry Street in Manhattan for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. We understand that this nomination was prepared as part of a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant administered through the New York State Historic Preservation Office, includes the buildings in which Wald lived and worked, 265 and 267 Henry Street, and recognizes these buildings as the most important resources associated with the life of this significant American nurse and reformer.

These buildings appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. We note that both buildings were designated as individual landmarks as part of the Henry Street Settlement on January 18, 1966. Based on our review of the building and its association with Lillian Wald, the Commission supports its nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Lemos McHale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Lemos McHale
Director of Research