



## The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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### **AT&T BUILDING AND LOBBY IN LOWER MANHATTAN DESIGNATED AS NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS**

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously granted landmark status to the interior and exterior of the American Telephone and Telegraph Building at 195 Broadway. The building is considered one of New York City's most stunning examples of Greek-inspired, neo-Classical architecture, as well as one of the finest works by William Welles Bosworth, who also designed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the gardens and garden structures at Kykuit, the Rockefeller family estate in Pocantico Hills, N.Y.



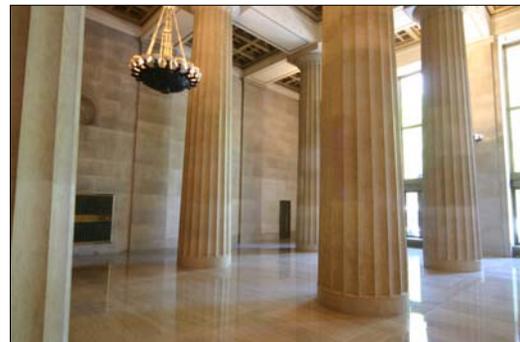
Former AT&T president Theodore Newton Vail commissioned Bosworth to create a headquarters for the company that reflected its might, quality and commitment to public service.

“This magnificent building melds extraordinary architecture with an equally high caliber of painting and sculpture,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “This building remains a singular achievement to this day, and we are thrilled about this designation.”

Constructed between Fulton and Dey Streets in three phases from 1912 to 1922, Bosworth's building was inspired in part by the contemporary excavation of the Temple of Sardis. The facades of the 27-story office tower, which are detailed with swags, wreaths, lion heads and frets, are clad in Vermont granite, and defined by Ionic colonnades and Doric columns that recall the Athenian Parthenon.

Relief panels designed by sculptor Paul Manship that depict the Four Elements (Earth, Air, Fire and Water) are set into the bronze spandrels above the entrances to the Broadway side of the building. And the western portion of the building, which housed AT&T's executive offices, is capped by a gold orb that once supported the gilded bronze figure of *The Genius of Electricity*.

Inside lies a serene forest of 43 cream-colored marble Doric columns. Other features of the grand, hypostyle hall include a cast bronze stairway, a marble mailbox decorated with carvings based on Greek and Roman altar decorations, and patinated bronze and alabaster chandeliers.



Manship designed the marble frieze that runs above the elevators along the Dey Street side of the lobby. His former assistant, Gaston Lachaise, crafted the putti carrying garlands and other details. Another sculptor, Chester Beach, designed the 1928 bronze and marble war memorial, "Service to the Nation," that acts as a focal point for the Broadway side of the lobby.

AT&T's headquarters remained at 195 Broadway until 1983, when the company moved to Midtown Manhattan. The building currently houses a number of offices, with Thomson Financial as the principal tenant.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. Since its creation in 1965, the Commission has designated nearly 23,000 buildings in all five boroughs, including 1,142 individual landmarks, 107 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 85 historic districts.