

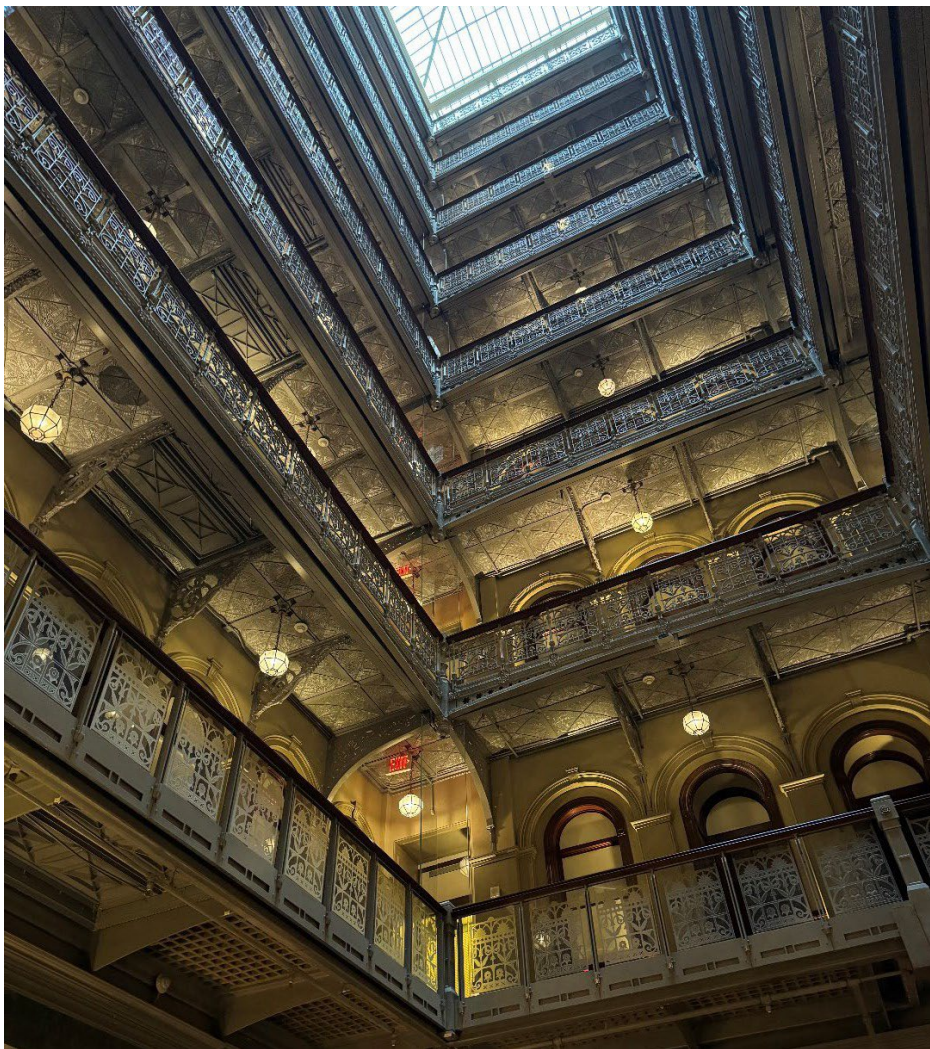
# Temple Court Building (now The Beekman Hotel) Atrium

**5 Beekman Street (aka 3-9 Beekman Street; 119-133  
Nassau Street; 10 Theatre Alley), Manhattan  
Tax Map Block 90 Lot 7503 (previously 14)**

**Built:** 1881-83; restored 2013-16

**Architect:** Silliman & Farnsworth; restoration, Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel, Architects

**Proposed Action:** Calendared February 27, 2024; Public Hearing May 14, 2024



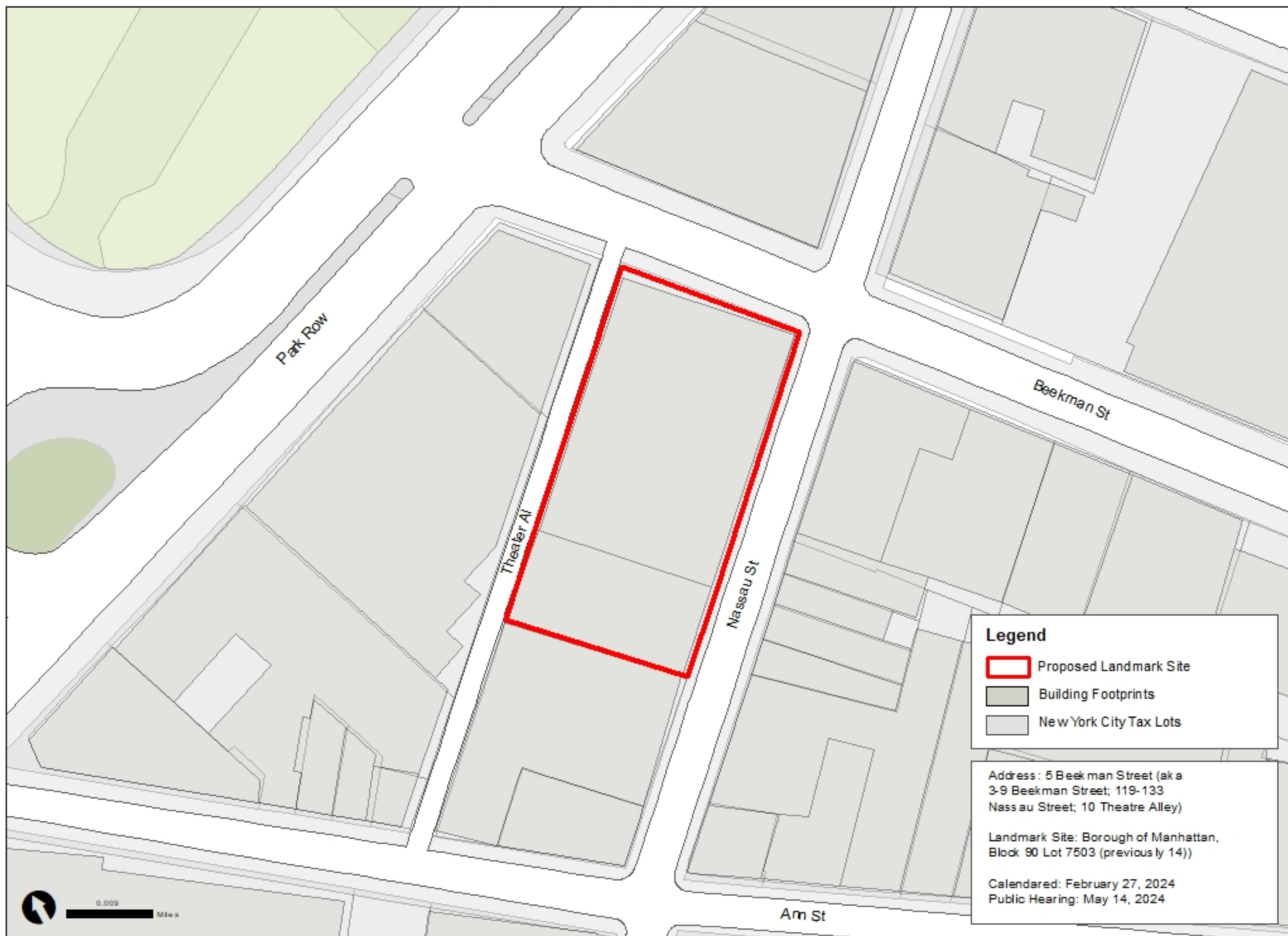
**Atrium viewed from below, 2024**

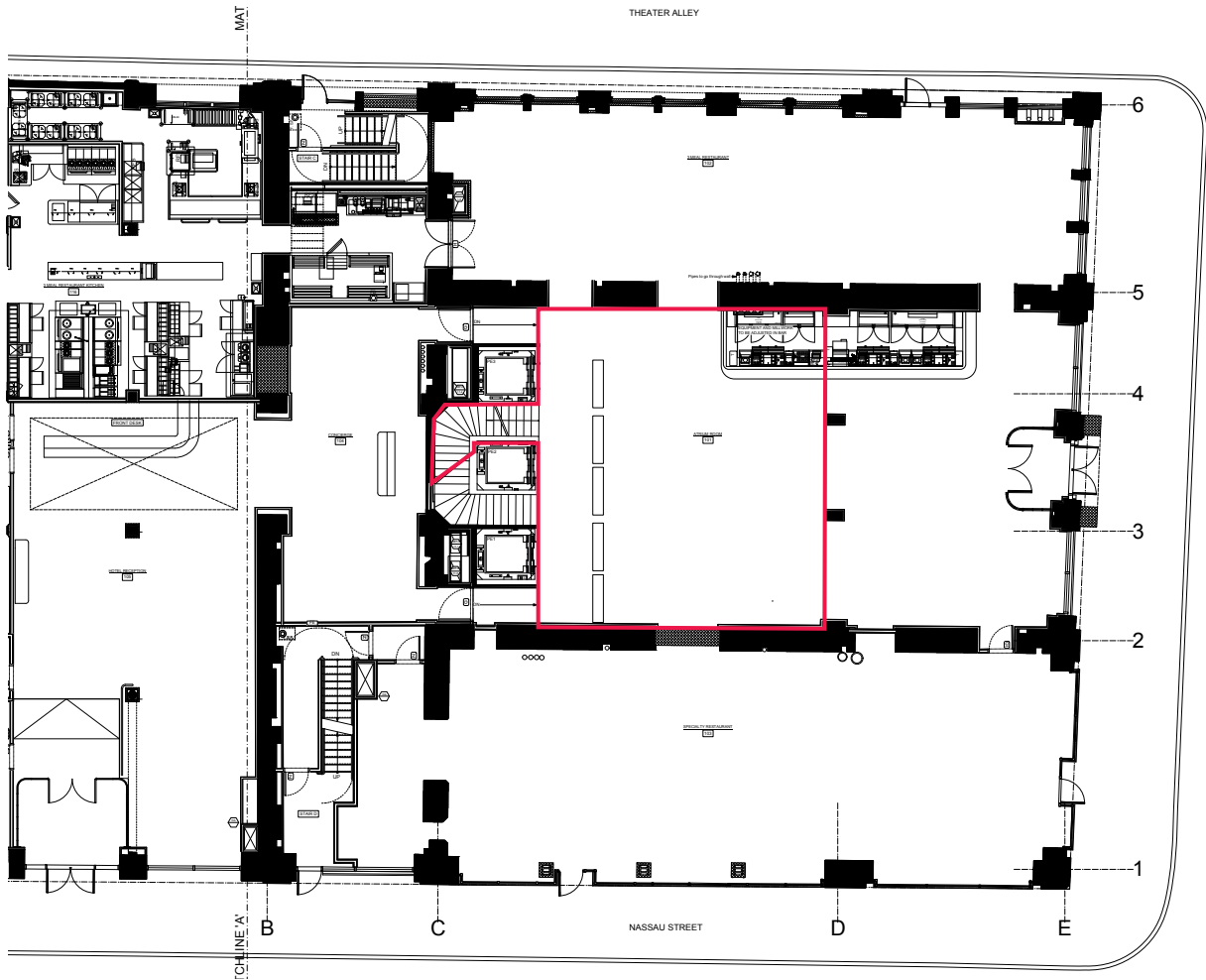
The Temple Court Building (a designated New York City Landmark) was designed in 1881 by the firm of Silliman & Farnsworth for Eugene Kelly and was among the first significant office buildings erected after 1879 as the city recovered from the financial panic of 1873. When opened in 1883, the building included more than 200 offices that were arranged around a polychrome atrium that rose for nine stories to a large pyramidal skylight enhanced with decorative metalwork. The atrium features eight tiers of galleries supported by ornamental iron brackets in the form of dragons or beams with cutwork decoration; cast-iron balustrades with decorative panels; encaustic tile floors; and ceilings created by ornamental cast-iron plates attached to the undersides of the galleries above. Hidden for decades as a fire safety hazard, the historic atrium has been beautifully restored as part of the conversion of the Temple Court Building into The Beekman Hotel by GFI Development, LLC working with the architectural firm of Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel, and Higgins Quasebarth & Partners, and is its stunning centerpiece.

In the 19th-century, the interior atrium became a popular feature in a variety of building types including hotels, libraries, department stores, and office buildings since the volume allowed for both natural lighting and an enclosed, usually grand and often highly decorative space. Its use in the United States was traced by the author Carl Condit to the Arcade Building (1827-28, James C. Bucklin & Russell Warren) in Providence, Rhode Island and by mid-century its popularity spread to New York appearing in the now demolished A. T. Stewart Department Store (1859-62, John Kellam) at Broadway and East 10th Street. The Temple Court Building's striking nine-story atrium is an early and rare example of this feature in a commercial building and an incredibly significant public interior space.

The architects Benjamin Silliman, Jr. and James Mace Farnsworth met when they worked in the office of Vaux, Withers & Co. forming their own practice in 1877. Silliman & Farnsworth designed several prominent office and institutional buildings influenced by the *Rundbogenstil*, neo-Grec, and Queen Anne styles. In addition to the Temple Court Building, they were responsible for the 1879-80 Morse Building at 140 Nassau Street, a New York City Landmark, and nos. 17 and 19 East 17th Street in the Ladies' Mile Historic District. In 1883, Farnsworth left the firm to practice independently and among his commissions was the design of the Temple Court Building's annex (1889-90) on Nassau Street.

The beautifully restored atrium includes historic galleries supported by decorative iron brackets, skylight, and ornate ironwork, arched entrances and windows, doors, and millwork at the guest room walls. In addition, the second-story gallery which had been largely removed has been sensitively restored, with a new balustrade featuring glass panels etched with the foliate pattern of the historic cast-iron panels seen in the upper galleries. To assure the safety of guests, the atrium is protected by an innovative fire safety system consisting of sprinklers and smoke curtains. The proposed landmark site is the volume of the atrium as defined by the atrium galleries, including the exterior faces of the surrounding walls, as established at the second story and extending down to the floor of the first story and up to and including the skylight, as well as the adjacent cast-iron staircase.





**LEGEND**

- First Floor Plan
- Proposed Interior Landmark

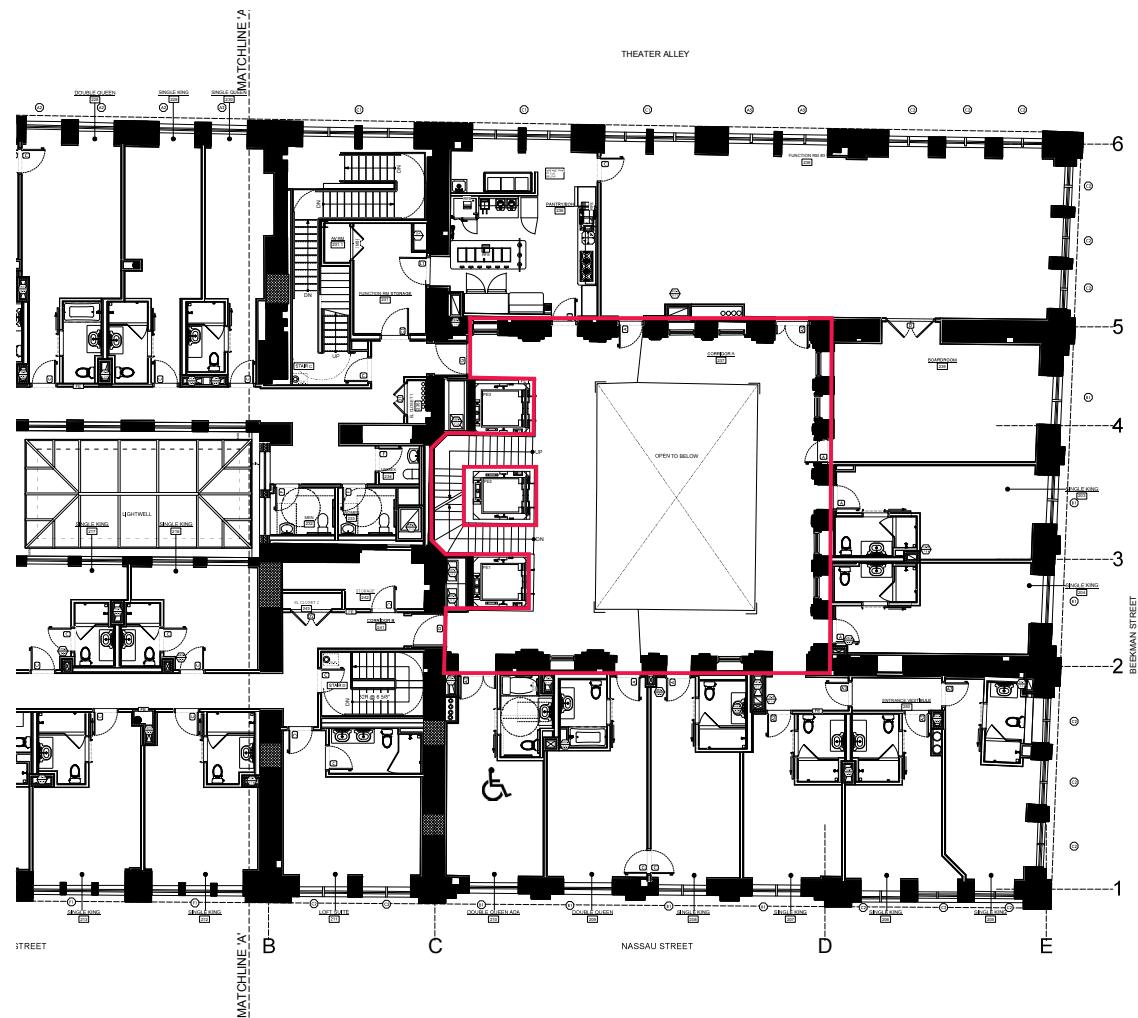
Address: 5 Beekman Street (aka 3-9 Beekman Street; 119-133 Nassau Street; 10 Theatre Alley)

Landmark Site: Manhattan, Block 90 Lot 7503 (previously 14)

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 **First Floor Plan**





**Second - Eighth Floor Plan**

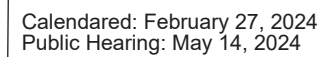
**LEGEND**

-  Second - Eighth Floor Plan
-  Proposed Interior Landmark

Address: 5 Beekman Street (aka 3-9 Beekman Street; 119-133 Nassau Street; 10 Theatre Alley)

Landmark Site: Manhattan, Block 90 Lot 7503 (previously 14)

Calendared: February 27, 2024  
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## Ninth Floor Plan