

EAST 38TH STREET Lexington and Third Avenue (South Side)

**138 East 38th Street (aka 309-311 Lexington Avenue),
Allerton House, now Tatham House Tax/Block 893 Lot 64**



Twelve-story neo-Georgian hotel (Paul Hunter, 1914-15, for the Allerton 38th St., Co., James S. Cushman, President); simple stone-faced first and second stories with round-arched windows and entry; brick above. One of a series of "Allerton Houses" built for single professional men. "Many of these men come from the smaller cities and larger towns, and some from the country, and among surroundings like these become merged into a social whole for a community remarkable for its homogeneity and a certain *esprit de corps*.... The present Allerton House [the third one, on East 39th Street] is the third of a group of similar name that progressively have marked the development of this housing scheme in New York. The first Allerton House was located in the Greenwich Village section and was a modest structure of fifty rooms. The name of Allerton was selected because the building was located on the spot where once stood the farmstead of one Isaac Allerton, who journeyed to this country in the Mayflower and located in Greenwich Village. The Allertons were a thrifty family and their farm became one of the best developed on Manhattan Island.... When the second Allerton House was built, at Thirty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue, the site was yet within the region that is most intimately connected with Manhattan Island's early history. It was within an easy stone's throw of the Old Bouwerie, or Bowery, the one-time important thoroughfare that led by a winding road and shaded lanes to the undeveloped country that composed Manhattan Island to the north" (*American Architect*). Source: NB 120-1914; NYT 6/28/1914 p.XX1; *American Architect*, Vol. CXV No. 2267, June 4, 1919; pp. 773 ff. Contributing.