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POSTINGS

2 Floors for Wagner Graduate School

N.Y.U. Leases 3 Floors at Puck Building

It seems that no matter which way New York University turns, it often runs into a landmark.

Whether moving into leased space in the Woolworth Building, recreating the facade of a 19th-century town house where Edgar Allan Poe lived or commemorating the landmark designation of the Brown Building, site of the Triangle shirtwaist factory fire, the university is closely — sometimes controversially — tied to historical structures.

Now, the university has signed a 15-year lease for three floors in the Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street, a landmark Romanesque structure at Houston Street whose tiers of arched windows rise over NoHo like a ruddy aqueduct. With 75,000 square feet of space designed by Suben/Dougherty Partnership, the university will be the building's largest tenant.

Beginning next year, the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, which is scattered in six places, will be consolidated on the second and third floors of the Puck Building. The fourth floor will be occupied by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Department of Journalism.

The new Wagner school will be designed "to maximize 'bump-into' space" where casual encounters can



Left, Vincent Laforet/The New York Times; above, the Kushner Companies

N.Y.U. has taken 75,000 square feet in the landmark building, which has sculptures of a cherubic Puck.

easily occur between colleagues who are now separated, said the dean, Ellen Schall. "We couldn't be more thrilled, not only to have a home but to have such a beautiful home," she said.

Begun in 1885 to house the office and presses of Puck magazine, the building was expanded through the 1890's. Its best known features are two sculptures of a cherubic Puck. Another fictional character at the building is Grace Adler, who has her design office there on the "Will and Grace" show

Tenants include New York Caterers, which leases the two ballrooms. The arrival of New York University "truly solidifies the building," said Charles Ramat, president and chief executive of

Kushner Companies of Florham Park, N.J., which owns the building through an affiliate.

The chairman of Kushner, Charles Kushner, withdrew from consideration as chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey this year amid questions about his campaign contributions. He is also a university trustee, so it might be asked whether N.Y.U. benefited from landlord largesse. While neither side would disclose the lease terms, John Beckman, the assistant vice president of public affairs, said, "The university was the recipient of a wonderful gift as part of this transaction, and N.Y.U. is most grateful to Mr. Kushner."

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