

**RESOURCE EVALUATION**      **DATE:** 07/02/07      **STAFF:** Peter Shaver

**PROPERTY:** General Sedgwick House (Sedgwick Towers) **MCD:** Bronx

**ADDRESS:** 1520 Sedgwick Avenue      **COUNTY:** Westchester

**PROJECT REF:** Info. Request      **USN:** 00501.001448

- I.  Property is individually listed on SR/NR:  
    name of listing:  
 Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:  
    name of district:

- II.  Property meets eligibility criteria.  
 Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.  
    **Pre SRB:**  **Post SRB:**  \_\_\_\_\_ SRB date

**Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:**

- A.  Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;  
B.  Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;  
C.  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 may lack individual distinction;  
D.  Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

- III.  Property does not meet eligibility criteria.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Based on the information submitted, it is the opinion of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation that the General Sedgwick House apartments (a.k.a. Sedgwick Towers) meet Criterion A in the area of entertainment and African-American heritage as the birthplace of hip hop, a musical genre that has grown into a worldwide phenomenon. The property also meets Criteria Consideration G for exceptional significance because it has been widely accepted as the place where hip hop was first developed. The Sedgwick House, an 18-story public housing complex with 100 apartment units, was built in 1969 by the City of New York. Clive Campbell (born 1955, stage name DJ Kool Herc), who lived in the building, held a series of public parties in the recreation room of the Sedgwick House in 1973 and 1974, where the fundamental elements of hip hop – Djing, MCing, and breakdancing – evolved into a uniquely American style of music and culture.