

51 MARKET STREET HOUSE, Borough of Manhattan, Begun 1824, completed 1825,
architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 276, Lot 23.

On September 21, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the 51 Market Street House as a Landmark and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 8). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two witnesses appeared and spoke in favor of designation of the building. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The 51 Market Street House is a very fine urban example of the Late Federal Style of architecture. This house exemplifies the architecture of the newly-created Republic, superceding the heavier Georgian Style.

This four-story brick building has many interesting architectural details. Above the windows are their original panelled lintels on the first three floors. The lintels are more elaborate than is usual, being enriched with both panels and rosettes. The basement windows are framed with a rusticated architrave composed of alternating smooth and textured blocks of stone. Most of the exterior ironwork is original. It is in the Federal tradition and is largely wrought iron in contrast to later Greek Revival work which also used cast iron.

The front entrance of the house is of extreme importance; both the outer and inner original doorways are intact. This is one of the few complete Late Federal Period doorways of this quality within the City. The doorway has a moulded elliptical stone arch and consists of an eight-panelled door flanked by fluted Ionic columns, leaded glass sidelights and similar half-columns next to a stone frame. A handsome leaded glass fanlight is set above the top of the door frame. The doorway is further enriched by a series of finely detailed mouldings.

This outstanding building is admirably preserved and is basically a yardstick by which other houses of the period may be judged today. Fifty-One Market Street was built during a period of great architectural achievement, and New York City is fortunate that it has survived.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this house, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the 51 Market Street House has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the 51 Market Street House is one of New York City's few remaining Late Federal houses still retaining a significant range of rich architectural details of the period.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 8-A of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates the 51 Market Street House, Borough of Manhattan, as a Landmark and designates Tax Map Block 276, Lot 23, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.