Landmarks Preservation Commission  
January 18, 1966, Calendar No. 1 
LP-0053 

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING, 65 Liberty Street, Borough of Manhattan.  
1901; architect James B. Baker. 

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 64, Lot 9. 

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public 
hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Chamber of Commerce 
Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar 
No. 25). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the pro­ 
visions of law. No speakers appeared at the public hearing. In a letter to 
the Commission, the owner of the building indicated that it had no opposition 
to designation as a Landmark. 

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS 

This massive marble building, built at the turn of the century, is 
notable for its grandeur and rich detail. It is outstanding today as a 
relatively low but impressive building surrounded by skyscrapers. The owners 
have preserved this fine building which stands as a symbol of the importance 
of the Chamber of Commerce in the community. It houses their priceless picture 
gallery. A splendid row of Ionic columns set on a heavy masonry base is sur­ 
mounted by a handsome copper-crested Mansard roof with three great dormer 
windows. Historically, this building is notable as housing the Chamber of 
Commerce of the State of New York, an organization which was founded in 
Fraunces Tavern in 1768. 

In its use of fine materials, carving and other details, the Chamber of 
Commerce Building represents a fine example of French Renaissance Eclectic 
architecture. Through the boldness of its elements and the deep shadows they 
cast, it stands as a powerful design demonstrative of the importance of the 
Chamber of Commerce of the City. 

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS 

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture 
and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission 
finds that the Chamber of Commerce Building 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 
Chamber of Commerce Building is an outstanding example of French Renaissance 
Eclectic architecture, that it is a bold design using fine materials and 
detail and that this distinguished building makes a contribution to the 
elegance of our City. 

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 as a Landmark 
the Chamber of Commerce Building, 65 Liberty Street, Borough of Manhattan 
and designates Tax Map Block 64, Lot 9, Borough of Manhattan, as its 
Landmark Site. 

Commissioner J. Clarence Davies did not participate in the consideration 
of this Calendar item. 

Commissioner Juliet Bartlett dissented from the designation of this building 
as a Landmark.