

2 WHITE STREET HOUSE, Borough of Manhattan. 1809; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 191, Lot 13.

On October 19, 1965, The Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 2 White Street House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 58). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Three witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The owner of the property has indicated that he does not oppose designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Number Two White Street is one of those very rare brick and wood houses in New York which still retains its gambrel roof and original dormer windows. Three rectangular second story windows have excellent splayed lintels with central keystone blocks. As a corner house 2 White Street probably always had a shop on the ground floor, and though nothing remains of the original Federal style doorway or shop windows, the ground floor is still used as a shop, and there is very good potential for its restoration. Although built in 1809, this house is definitely Eighteenth Century in style and character. The original cornice with its handsome detail and fine moldings has considerable documentary value.

These attractive little dwellings are rapidly disappearing from the City. A good number of those few which are left have been altered beyond recognition. A building like 2 White Street, which is in a good state of preservation and which is still a useful and viable part of its neighborhood, is a rare building indeed. At the time it was built such houses were common. They were often built on speculation, in small rows, and sometimes had shops on the ground floor. They were usually two stories high, with a basement below and a steep roof with dormers above.

Gideon Tucker was the builder and original owner of this house. Tucker was a prominent New Yorker in his day: an Assistant Alderman of the Fifth Ward, a School Commissioner, and Commissioner of Estimates and Assessments. The Tucker & Ludlum plaster factory was located on his property, which was more extensive than this corner lot. When the street was developed for residential use, he built this house as the typical termination for a small row.

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 2 White 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 Number Two White Street House, complete with its original gambrel roof and other fine architectural details, is an important remaining example of a style which is rapidly disappearing from our City, and that it continues to be a functioning part of our City life.

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 2 White Street House, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 191, Lot 13, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.