

HALL OF FAME, New York University, University Heights, Hall of Fame Terrace at Sedgwick Avenue, The Bronx. 1900; architects McKim, Mead & White.

Landmark Site: Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3222, Lot 62 in part, consisting of the land on which the described improvement is situated.

On January 11, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Hall of Fame and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 15). Two witnesses, including the representative of New York University, spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until February 8, 1966 (Item No. 14). At that time no speakers appeared to testify. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers in opposition to designation at either meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This semicircular open air colonnade, internationally known as the "Hall of Fame", crowns a plateau high above the Harlem River. It shelters the sculptured busts of famous men and women and surrounds Gould Memorial Library, set in the center of its sweeping curve. Unified by its Eclectic Roman Style, the six hundred foot terrace with lateral extensions north and south is covered by a handsome tiled roof carried on columns and piers. Monumental in scale and solidly constructed of granite and limestone, the covered terrace makes dramatic use of the site and provides a promenade from which commanding views may be enjoyed of the river below and the City beyond.

The unusual semicircular plan gives the colonnade an unparalleled distinction all its own. In addition to this important feature, it is notable for good Classical design represented in its imposing proportions, rich detail and use of fine building materials.

In a letter to the Commission, Dean J. W. Knedler, Jr. of the University College of Arts and Science at New York University endorsed the proposed designations of the four buildings on the University Heights Campus. "They constitute a monumental group which we regard as the heart of the campus..... Such a move would be a gratification not only to the present members of the College community but to its graduate body. More important, it would be a recognition of the superb work done by McKim, Mead and White in collegiate architecture."

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 Hall of Fame 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 Hall of Fame colonnade is a superb example of the finest in Classical grandeur, that its unique plan is admirably suited to its site and that, with its exceptionally fine statuary and classical detail, it forms an important part of one of the outstanding Classical campuses in New York 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 Hall of Fame, New York University, University Heights, Hall of Fame Terrace at Sedgwick Avenue, The Bronx and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3222, Lot 62 which contains the land on which the described improvement is situated.