

Landmarks Preservation Commission
April 19, 1966, Number 10
LP-0148

OLD BROOKLYN FIRE HEADQUARTERS, 365-367 Jay Street, Borough of Brooklyn. 1892;
architect Frank Freeman.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 147, Lot 2.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 49). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One speaker spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. In a letter to the Commission, Fire Commissioner Robert O. Lowery recommended designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

As an example of the Romanesque Revival, this fire-house on Jay Street is one of New York's best and most striking architectural compositions. It was designed to display much splendid Romanesque ornament and was constructed of granite with handsome red sandstone trim. The walls are of fine, dark brown Roman brick with terra cotta detail to relieve the smooth surfaces. The red tile roof is trimmed with copper and the combination of colors is both subtle and ingenious. These rich materials make this an extremely beautiful and architecturally noteworthy building. The exterior of the building expresses its function to perfection with the great, richly decorated arch for the exit of the fire-engines, flanked by a watch-tower used for spotting fires in the area.

This building served as the Brooklyn Fire Headquarters until 1898, when Brooklyn was consolidated with Manhattan, at which time the headquarters were moved to Manhattan. However, the building still serves as a fire-house serving its original purpose.

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 Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters 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 Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters is an extremely handsome and expressive example of Romanesque Revival architecture, that it displays a singular wealth of architectural detail, executed in costly and attractive materials, that it is notable for the vigor of its design and the proportioning of its various elements, that it displays an unusual variety of harmoniously blended colors and that it is architecturally one of the finest buildings in Brooklyn.

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 Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters, 365-367 Jay Street, Borough of Brooklyn and designates Tax Map Block 147, Lot 2, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.