

WILLIAMSBURGH SAVINGS BANK, 175 Broadway, Borough of Brooklyn. Completed 1875; architect George B. Post. Altered 1905 and 1945.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 2457, Lot 28.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 65). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

An imposing building of monumental proportions, this bank with its dome and handsome lantern impresses one with its massive strength and quiet dignity. Classic Revival in style, this four story building of limestone, sandstone and marble contains a wealth of architectural detail and ornament. Extremely beautiful bronze candelabra stand on large bases flanking a short flight of stairs which lead up to the main entrance. Recessed in a deep archway, the main doorway is featured and is surrounded by many handsomely detailed architectural details. A low attic story rises above the arched doorway, adding a dominate note to the massing of this impressive building. At the corners there are rugged corner stones, or quoins, supplying a strong unifying element and adding to the feeling of solidity and dignity produced by this building.

The Williamsburgh Savings Bank is an unusual domed structure, with many diverse architectural elements in its composition. A rich cornice crowns the building, sharply contrasting with the austere formal panelling of the attic story. The plain surface of the foundation walls is enriched by the ornately decorated cast iron railing, extending around the building at street level. Crowning the beautiful lantern on top of the dome is an elaborate ornamental feature topped by a delicate weather-vane.

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 Williamsburgh Savings Bank 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 Williamsburgh Savings Bank is a bank building of imposing grandeur, an excellent example of that Classic Revival architecture which preceded the Chicago Fair of 1893, that it has rich architectural details and imposing proportions, that it is built of enduring materials in excellent state of preservation and that this Bank has served the banking needs of its community with dignity and honor for over ninety years.

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 Williamsburgh Savings Bank, 175 Broadway, Borough of Brooklyn and designates Tax Map Block 2457, Lot 28, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.