

NEW LOTS REFORMED CHURCH, 630 New Lots Avenue, Borough of Brooklyn.
1824; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 4307, Lot 1 SE in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the New Lots Reformed Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 70). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Three witnesses spoke in favor of designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

New Lots Reformed Church is an outstanding example of a small rural clapboard church. Constructed during the late Federal Period and displaying Early Gothic Revival details, it is provincial in character and as a wood church of this period is architecturally unique in New York City. A plain low-pitched pediment dominates the front elevation with three windows above the three doors, all framed with pointed wood arches. The triple center window, Palladian-Gothic in design, is truly an architectural rarity. Four, tall, pointed-arch windows are contained in each of the identical side elevations. Stained glass today replaces the original clear glass. A square base, affixed to the low pitched gable roof, supports an octagonal belfry which is surmounted by a very attractive cupola type roof. This very simple architectural statement has a rustic charm which is rare in this City. Other houses of worship are older, but none, built of wood, has stood so long unchanged in its original form.

In 1821, the farmers and other folk of the New Lots area decided to build this church. Toppled oaks were cut in lengths and hand-shaped for framing timbers. They were then allowed to season. In May of 1823, under the direction of a building committee, a raising bee was held. Volunteer workers and well wishers, from far and near, came to help and through their united efforts, this house of God, which is still being used for worship, was erected for a sum reported to have been about \$35. The building, with timbers notched, jointed and secured by pegs, stands today in its original form, and is a tribute to the soundness of its construction and the quality of its craftsmanship.

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 New Lots Reformed Church 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, New Lots Reformed Church is an outstanding example of rural church architecture, that in New York City, this simple wooden structure is unique in form and character and that this House of Worship with its simple rustic charm is an asset and a credit to its community and an enduring expression of its faith in God.

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 New Lots Reformed Church, 630 New Lots Avenue, Borough of Brooklyn and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 4307, Lot 1 SE in part, which contains the land on which the described building is situated.