

FIRST UKRAINIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD (originally Metropolitan Savings Bank), 9 East 7th Street, Borough of Manhattan. Completed 1867; architect Carl Pfeiffer.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 463, Lot 1.

On March 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the First Ukrainian Assembly of God and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 7). 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

This French Second Empire building occupies a corner plot so that the two impressive facades can be advantageously viewed at the same time. The century old three-story masonry structure with mansard roof and low basement commands attention because of its imposing size, individual character and ordered composition. Heralded as one of the first fireproof commercial buildings of its day, this sturdily built structure expresses its indestructibility.

The building, with its five windows on Third Avenue and eight on Seventh Street is unified by the use of a horizontal band course at each floor and an ornate cornice at the roof line. Quoins at the corners and bold rustication on the ground floor are strong unifying elements. The pilasters framing the windows add vertical emphasis, particularly at the second and third floors where large brackets support projecting entablatures above the windows. The center window at the second floor on Third Avenue is given special architectural treatment. Resting on pedestals, two engaged columns with Corinthian capitals support a pedimented entablature. The pedestals are joined by a balustrade. The central rusticated arch at the first floor frames a handsome doorway with a window above. It is flanked by fluted Corinthian columns. In the mansard roof are a series of dormer windows crowned with segmental arches.

In 1937 this building was bought by the Ukrainian Church which uses the edifice for religious purposes. It had originally been built by the Metropolitan Savings Bank which occupied it for 68 years.

From a report of the Superintendent of Buildings made in 1868 to the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of New York, we quote the following: "in the construction of this building no combustible materials have been used, either externally or internally, where masonry or ironwork could be made available, rendering the same fireproof. Were buildings constructed after the manner of the Metropolitan Savings Bank, the frequency of conflagrations, and the immense destruction of merchandise by fire and water, which have from time to time visited upon our city, would be materially lessened, if not altogether prevented. It is one of the handsomest and most thoroughly constructed buildings in the city, and is a perfect model in its precaution against fire."

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 First Ukrainian Assembly of God 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 First Ukrainian Assembly of God occupies one of the oldest fireproof buildings in the City, that it has individual character and is impressive in size, that it is a fine example of the French Second Empire style with many rich architectural details and that after one hundred years it still serves a useful purpose with dignity and distinction.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 63 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 First Ukrainian Assembly of God, 9 East 7th Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 463, Lot 1, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.