

RECTORY OF ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 18 West 122nd Street, Borough of Manhattan. Begun 1888, completed 1889; architect William A. Potter.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1720, Lot 66.

On June 14, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Rectory of St. Martin's Episcopal Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 24). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provision of law. Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. In a letter to the Commission, The Reverend David Johnson, Rector of the Church, approved designation.

#### DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Saint Martin's Rectory adjoins the rear of St. Martin's Church on 122nd Street. This three and one half story rugged Romanesque Revival building has great dignity and architectural character. The continuous second and third story window sills of the Rectory are carried over into the Church facade as smooth faced horizontal band courses, and contrast most effectively with the bold-faced masonry of the walls. They are an integral part of the design of both buildings. The placement of the triple windows makes a very interesting composition and is indicative of the imagination of this creative and resourceful architect. The triple window in the gable above them is suitably reduced in width with an attractive high central window flanked by low square headed ones.

Together with the Church and the Parish House, these three structures portray a thoroughly harmonious ensemble of rugged masonry buildings. In fact, they combine to form the finest group of Romanesque Revival Church buildings still standing in New York City.

The parish was organized in 1868. It was known as Holy Trinity Chapel and Holy Trinity Mission House and was located at 112th Street. The first church was built in 1870 on Fifth Avenue at the corner of 125th Street. The present structure was consecrated in 1888. The name was changed to Saint Martin's in 1928.

#### 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 Rectory of St. Martin's Episcopal 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, the Rectory of St. Martin's Church is an excellent example of rugged Romanesque Revival architecture, that it is adjacent to and well integrated with St. Martin's Church, and that, together with the Parish House, the ensemble is an exceedingly harmonious group, the finest Romanesque Revival Church buildings 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 Rectory of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 18 West 122nd Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 1720, Lot 66, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.