

PRITCHARD HOUSE, 66 Harvard Avenue, Staten Island. Built about 1845.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 58, Lot 77.

On September 13, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Pritchard House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 20). Five witnesses spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until November 10, 1966 (Item No. 14). At that time three speakers testified. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. The present owner has indicated that he is in favor of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Surrounded by large trees on spacious landscaped grounds is located this distinguished mansion. It belongs to the late Greek Revival period and shows the influence of the Italianate style. Rectangular in plan with a short ell, this two-story residence with attic has good scale and well proportioned openings within large, smooth wall areas. Built of brick finished with stucco and stone trim, it conveys a feeling of stately dignity and grandeur. Set back a comfortable distance from the road, it is situated on high ground in a section known as Hamilton Park and is one of a number of substantial houses in this attractive community on Staten Island.

The long axis of the House is oriented north and south on the property. A narrow ell projects out from the southwest corner. This wing, with the adjacent porch, was remodeled in the Italianate manner. On the first floor, this is revealed in the round-arched windows decorated with fan lights. On the second floor, it is expressed by the round-arched windows flanked by pilasters, opening on a projecting balcony and by the ornamental roof above the balcony, with its trefoil motif cut in wood beneath the cornice. This same motif is repeated in the cornice of the raised porch which extends north from the wing. The low pitched porch roof is supported by slender, turned columns. A flight of wooden steps leads up to the entrance on the porch. Double paneled doors with sidelights are set between plain pilasters, and the doorway is crowned by a molded entablature.

At the second floor level the House is divided by a wide horizontal band-course. It encircles the mansion cutting through the sharply beveled quoins that accent the corners of the structure. With the exception of the arched windows in the ell, all the others are square-headed. The first floor windows are French doors with muntins. The second floor muntined windows are double hung. All these rectangular windows are handsomely enframed with "Greek ears" at the top.

Supported by paired brackets, the generous overhang of the low pitched roof, combined with the sharply profiled cornice, casts a deep shadow on the walls. This imposing Italianate roof is a dominant feature of this unusual mansion. The main section has a hip roof, with the center portion a monitor roof rising above it, containing low windows lighting the attic rooms. With heavy moldings at the top and brackets, the two large chimneys serve to anchor the substantial superstructure which crowns and enhances the dignity of the House.

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 Pritchard House 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 Pritchard House is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival mansion showing later Italianate influence and that its many architectural features include excellent proportions and superb details, executed by superior craftsmen, and an overall composition which is impressive and noteworthy.

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 Pritchard House, 66 Harvard Avenue, Staten Island and designates Tax Map Block 58, Lot 77, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.