

Landmarks Preservation Commission
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LP-0332

W. S. PENDLETON HOUSE, 22 Pendleton Place, Staten Island. Built about 1855.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 64, Lot 155.

On September 13, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the W. S. Pendleton House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 21). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Four witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The owner has indicated to the Commission that he is in favor of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Appealingly picturesque in its striking profile and unusual structural features, this Gothic Revival house, with its numerous steeply pitched gables, possesses a distinctive individuality and a true architectural character. The Pendleton House is a two and one-half story shingled residence with basement and has an impressive tower, which plays a dominant role in the composition of this rather unusual wooden dwelling of 1855, a survivor of Victorian romanticism. One would sooner expect to read a description of such a house in an historical novel, rather than come upon such an actual structure still standing within the confines of New York City.

The house is situated on high ground and overlooks the Kill Van Kull. Located on irregular shaped landscaped grounds, the house has ample space around it from which to view its many virtues. A gabled vestibule doorway projects forward from the south elevation. Scalloped scroll work bargeboards adorn the gable of this entrance roof. Similar motifs are repeated in the roof dormers and in those of the spire. Diamond shaped glass is used in all the windows, and there is an unusual variety in the shapes and sizes of the windows in this house. They are found single, grouped in pairs, in a bay window of four units with arched tracery at the top, and many are of the pointed arch type with double hung sash. A special feature of the west elevation is a handsome oriel with paired windows. On this side of the house are two one-story extensions and a greenhouse of a later period. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with diamond shaped shingles as is also the pyramidal shaped roof surmounting the tower. This remarkable Gothic villa is one of many which once adorned the Island.

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 W. S. Pendleton 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 W. S. Pendleton House is an unusual example of mid-Nineteenth Century architectural romanticism, that this dwelling is well sited, has a striking profile and contains many exceptionally fine features and decorative elements and that in New York City it represents a rare survivor of the Gothic Revival style of domestic architecture.

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 W. S. Pendleton House, 22 Pendleton Place, Borough of Richmond and designates Tax Map Block 64, Lot 155, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.