

NEVILLE HOUSE ("Old Stone Jug"), 806 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, Built about 1770.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 70, Lot 24.

On September 13, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Neville House ("Old Stone Jug") and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 23). 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. The owner of the House has indicated to the Commission that she is in favor of the proposed designation.

#### DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This impressive residence built in the local vernacular is one of the few large pre-Revolutionary country houses still standing in New York City. Built about 1770, the building contains many of its original details. Constructed of red, quarried sandstone, laid up in rectangular blocks, the rough-cut stone surface is now whitewashed. An unusual feature of this early masonry House is the long two-story veranda supported on six square posts. This imposing two and one-half story structure with high basement looks out over the Kill Van Kull.

The enframed entrance doorway with its handsome moldings and the molded wooden frames around the windows are original. The dormers in the steep pitched roof date from a later period. In the ell, the double hung windows are complemented by simple stone lintels. These smooth-faced lintels contrast pleasingly with the rough-cut coarse texture of the wall. Centered in the spacious veranda is a flight of steps leading up to the raised first floor level of the double-decked veranda. This type of veranda is a characteristic feature of the mansion house found in the West Indies and since the builder was a seafaring captain, he may well have seen and admired its prototype on one of his voyages to the Caribbean.

#### Historical Significance

Little is known about Captain John Neville, a retired naval officer, who built this country mansion. During the early Nineteenth Century, the residence became the home of county Judge Jacob Tysen and his son, Raymond M. Tysen, who wrote a short history of the Island. The house passed from the Tysen family about 1860 and has had several owners since. Once used as a tavern and called "The Old Stone Jug" it prospered, it is said, largely due to its proximity to Sailors' Snug Harbor.

#### 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 Neville 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 Neville House ("Old Stone Jug") is an impressive example of the local vernacular, that it is one of the few remaining large pre-Revolutionary country houses that may still be seen in New York City, that this masonry house has a unique two-story veranda of unusually pleasing proportions and that its over-all quality is of noteworthy architectural character.

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 Neville House ("Old Stone Jug"), 806 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island and designates Tax Map Block 70, Lot 24, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.