

MOORE-McMILLEN HOUSE (originally Rectory of the Church of St. Andrew), 3531
Richmond Road, Staten Island. Completed 1818.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 2282, Lot 155.

On September 13, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Moore-McMillen House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 55). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. No witness spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The owner has informed the Commission that he is in favor of designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Moore-McMillen house is a singularly dignified example of a Federal style country residence. This style, as developed in the New York area, is characterized chiefly by a low pitched, high shouldered, gambrel roof surmounting a modest two-story shingled farmhouse. In the country areas, as typified by this early Nineteenth Century farmhouse, rather than have the kitchen in the basement, a wing was added to house this important function and was built at the same time as the house and attached to the main portion of the building.

In the Moore-McMillen house, the features of the Federal style are revealed in the handsome doorway with pilasters, panels, side lights and transom, the delicate dentilled cornice adorning the eaves of the front, and the flush siding under the veranda. Exposed exterior brickwork marks the locations of the interior fireplaces. The floor plan consists of a wide hall, extending from front to rear of the building, opening on each side on to two rooms front and rear. The second floor plan is identical. This plan was almost universal in town houses of Brooklyn and Manhattan during the Post Colonial and later periods.

Historical Significance

The house was erected in 1818 to replace an earlier building constructed in 1716. It was built by the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew, located nearby in the village of Richmondtown and served as the Rectory and home of the minister, the Rev. David Moore. It occupied the "Little Glebe", a 60 acre farm set aside by the church for the use of the minister. The Rectory was known as the Golden Rectory since its occupant at that time received a handsome income from church properties. David Moore served his church for 48 years, as had his father, Rev. Charlton Moore, before him. Charlton Moore was the first Episcopal Bishop of Virginia. The house was left to David Moore by the church and purchased by Loring McMillen, Borough Historian, from the heirs of the Moore family in 1943. It has been sympathetically restored and maintained.

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 Moore-McMillen 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 Moore-McMillen house is a distinguished example of a modest early Nineteenth Century Federal style farmhouse, that it has excellent proportions and scale, with fine architectural details beautifully executed, and that it reflects the dignified, restrained taste of its early owners and of its period.

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 Moore-McMillen House, 3531 Richmond Road, Borough of Richmond and designates Tax Map Block 2282, Lot 155, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.