

Landmarks Preservation Commission
January 24, 1967, Number 6
LP-0443

CLARENCE DILLON HOUSE, 124 East 80th Street, Borough of Manhattan. Begun and completed 1930; architect Mott B. Schmidt.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1508, Lot 63.

On November 10, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Clarence Dillon House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 62). 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.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The influence of the Georgian town house is well exemplified in this handsome, three-story brick building, surmounted by a pedimented attic story. Towering end chimneys enframe two higher floors skillfully set back and thus largely concealed from view. This house was built for and is occupied by Clarence Dillon, one of the leading financial figures of New York City and the country.

This house, with its handsome doorway at street level (English Basement) flanked by double hung windows, bespeaks the comforts of English domesticity so much sought-after in this country. Here was combined the formality of the town house with an unostentatious exterior.

The American quest for simplicity of expression is to be found in the use of brickwork. The walls of Flemish bond lend texture while the quoins and simulated rustication blocks at the central second floor window, above the front door, are also executed in brick. Except for the elaborate front doorway with arched pediment and pilasters and other small details, stonework is nowhere in evidence.

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 Clarence Dillon 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 Clarence Dillon House is a fine example of English Georgian architecture adapted to American use for a town house, that in its use of materials it displays a restrained elegance and that these qualities have produced a livable yet dignified home for a noted resident of 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 Clarence Dillon House, 124 East 80th Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 1508, Lot 63, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.