

PARSONAGE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (Rhineland Memorial), 332 East 88th Street, Borough of Manhattan. Built in 1897; architects Barney & Chapman.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1550, Lot 34.

On November 10, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Parsonage of Holy Trinity Church (Rhineland Memorial), and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 66). 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 Rector of Holy Trinity Church has expressed approval of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The dignified three-story French Renaissance Parsonage of Holy Trinity Church is one of the three separate entities comprising this unusual ecclesiastical complex. This building is constructed of the same materials as Holy Trinity Church and St. Christopher House - brown tinted Roman brick, with terracotta decorative details and a red tile roof; consequently it blends harmoniously with the overall ensemble. Skillfully wedded to the plan of the church, this handsome structure might appear to be part of the church, were it not for the fact that it stands on its own architectural merit and has solid individuality and distinction.

The parsonage projects northward from the general mass of the church and extends almost to the street closing the east end of the large open court that it helps to form between the church, the parish house and the street. The exterior walls are relatively free of decoration, except for the horizontal moldings that emphasize the first, second, and third floor levels. The window openings are likewise treated simply with enframing moldings. The lower part of each window is of plate glass, while a decorative panel fills the space above the transom bar. The elaborate dormers with their decorative gabled ends and pinnacled terminations at either side, together with an elegant main entrance and ornate bronze crestings at the apex of the roof, provide a rich contrast to the building's plain brick walls. Several tall picturesque chimneys help to complete this skillfully composed composition.

Designed by the architects Barney & Chapman, the parsonage was erected concurrently with the church and parish house. A gift to the Episcopalian diocese, from Serena Rhineland as a memorial to her grandfather and her father, William C. Rhineland, the buildings occupy a portion of the old Rhineland Farm, purchased in 1798 by the first William Rhineland.

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 Parsonage of Holy Trinity Church (Rhineland Memorial) 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 Parsonage of Holy Trinity Church (Rhineland Memorial) is an important element of this complex of buildings, that it is constructed of the same materials and has the same architectural character as the church which it serves, and that it is in itself a fine example of French Renaissance architecture.

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 Parsonage of Holy Trinity Church (Rhineland Memorial), 332 East 88th Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 1550, Lot 34, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.