

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING, 65 Liberty Street, Borough of Manhattan.
1901; architect James B. Baker.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 64, Lot 9.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Chamber of Commerce Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 25). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. No speakers appeared at the public hearing. In a letter to the Commission, the owner of the building indicated that it had no opposition to designation as a Landmark.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This massive marble building, built at the turn of the century, is notable for its grandeur and rich detail. It is outstanding today as a relatively low but impressive building surrounded by skyscrapers. The owners have preserved this fine building which stands as a symbol of the importance of the Chamber of Commerce in the community. It houses their priceless picture gallery. A splendid row of Ionic columns set on a heavy masonry base is surmounted by a handsome copper-crested Mansard roof with three great dormer windows. Historically, this building is notable as housing the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, an organization which was founded in Fraunces Tavern in 1768.

In its use of fine materials, carving and other details, the Chamber of Commerce Building represents a fine example of French Renaissance Eclectic architecture. Through the boldness of its elements and the deep shadows they cast, it stands as a powerful design demonstrative of the importance of the Chamber of Commerce of the City.

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 Chamber of Commerce Building 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 Chamber of Commerce Building is an outstanding example of French Renaissance Eclectic architecture, that it is a bold design using fine materials and detail and that this distinguished building makes a contribution to the elegance of our 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 Chamber of Commerce Building, 65 Liberty Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 64, Lot 9, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.

Commissioner J. Clarence Davies did not participate in the consideration of this Calendar item.

Commissioner Juliet Bartlett dissented from the designation of this building as a Landmark.