

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 22 Barclay Street, Borough of Manhattan. Begun 1836, completed 1840, architects John R. Haggerty and Thomas Thomas.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 88, Lot 11.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of St. Peter's Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 50). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

St. Peter's Church is an impressive granite building with a fine six-columned portico and a low-angled gable (pediment). The extreme simplicity of the smooth masonry walls lends an air of great dignity to this building. This church is notable historically as having been built on the site of the first Roman Catholic church in New York City. The first church on this site was built in 1786 and was razed in 1836 to make way for the present St. Peter's.

As an early Catholic church, the present building closely follows the tradition of Classic monumentality of so many of its predecessors in Rome. It employed the Greek Revival Style of architecture, popular in the United States at that time. St. Peter's Church has an extremely handsome row of Ionic columns and is one of the finest temple-form churches in 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 St. Peter's Church 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, St. Peter's Church is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture executed in fine materials and with an impressive portico, that it is a temple-form building of excellent proportions and that it is one of the oldest Catholic churches in the City and is the oldest site of Catholic worship here.

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 St. Peter's Church, 22 Barclay Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 88, Lot 11, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.