

Landmarks Preservation Commission
February 1, 1966, Number 4
LP-0085

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, 25 Mott Street, Borough of Manhattan. Completed 1801; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 164, Lot 37.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark the Church of the Transfiguration and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 57). 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

This early church, like the Church of Sea and Land and St. Augustine's Chapel, belongs to the Georgian-Gothic architectural tradition. This is a church, built in Federal times which follows the Georgian rectangular plan with a front tower set forward, thus penetrating the front gable and dividing it into two separate parts. The handsome Gothic windows were an unusual feature when the church was built. A fire gutted the original church so that the interior has been remodelled completely, and a new bell tower has been added. This church which was built by the English Lutherans has been occupied successively by Episcopal and Catholic congregations.

The church is one of several built of small-sized field stones which have been trimmed by stone frames at the door and window openings. Its importance lies in the fact that it represented a type of church which was very popular at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century of which but few examples remain today. Such handsome permanent masonry structures indicate the high level of excellence achieved by masons in the early 1800's.

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 Church of the Transfiguration 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 Church of the Transfiguration is a fine example of Georgian-Gothic architecture, that it represents a good expression of masonry construction and that it is one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings of its time.

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 Church of the Transfiguration, 25 Mott Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 164, Lot 37, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.