

Landmarks Preservation Commission
January 18, 1966, Calendar No. 5
LP-0095

263 HENRY STREET BUILDING (a part of the Henry Street Settlement), Borough of Manhattan. 1827; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 287, Lot 7.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 263 Henry Street Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 67). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Three speakers, including a representative of the owner, spoke in favor of designation of the buildings of the Henry Street Settlement. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This four-story modified Federal town house retains at first floor and basement levels much of its fine original appearance. Some of the details such as the stair rails and the two tall windows beside the door are good examples of the Federal Style of architecture. All of the lintels above the windows were redone in the late 1870's in the then fashionable Neo-Grec Style with traces of the oncoming Queen Anne Style of the 1880's seen in the lintel panel and sunburst above the front door. The heavy cornice at the top is of the same period. This building is the westernmost of three houses which form the famous Henry Street Settlement founded by Lillian Wald in 1893. Pride in these buildings resulted in restoration work carried on in 1964 in lieu of razing them and rebuilding on the site.

This building retains much of its original architectural character and harmonizes well with its almost untouched neighbor, 265 Henry Street, which is a splendid example of Federal architecture. As part of the Henry Street Settlement, 263 Henry Street has been of outstanding service to the neighborhood ever since it was added to the Settlement.

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 263 Henry Street 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 263 Henry Street Building, a part of the Henry Street Settlement, displays many handsome Federal architectural details and some interesting architectural details of the latter half of the Nineteenth Century and that the building is a part of the great and historic tradition of neighborhood service initiated by Lillian Wald in 1893.

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 263 Henry Street Building, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 287, Lot 7, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.