

Landmarks Preservation Commission
February 15, 1966, Number 2
LP-0110

POE COTTAGE, Poe Park, 2640 Grand Concourse, Borough of The Bronx. Built about 1812; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3155, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On January 11, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Poe Cottage and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 12). One witness spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until February 8, 1966 Item No. 11). At that time one speaker favored designation. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers in opposition to designation at either meeting. In a letter, Park Commissioner Thomas Hoving recommended designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Poe Cottage is a fine example of the wooden farm cottages which were once abundant in this part of the City. This one and one-half story farmhouse with attic and porch was built about 1812 and is one of the few surviving examples of this building type in the Bronx. Poe lived here from 1846 to 1848 and is said to have written "Anabel Lee" and his last great work, "Eureka", in this cottage. The building contains many of Poe's early editions and mementos of his life.

The cottage is important to New York for its historical value, and it also serves as a reminder of our early farmhouse architecture. Set on three acres of land in a small park, this is a relatively small building expressing the simple architectural charm of a Nineteenth Century farm cottage.

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 Poe Cottage 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 Poe Cottage is one of the few good examples of an early Nineteenth Century wooden farmhouse to have survived in Bronx County, that it was for a time the home of one of our greatest poets and that it serves as a fitting memorial to its time and as a tribute to Edgar Allen Poe.

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 Poe Cottage, Poe Park, 2640 Grand Concourse, Borough of The Bronx and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3155, Lot 1 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.