

LENT HOMESTEAD, 78-03 19th Road, Steinway, Queens. Built about 1729; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 755, Lot 80.

On January 11, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Lent Homestead and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 37). One witness spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until February 8, 1966 (Item No. 36). At that time four speakers favored designation, including the owner of the house. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers in opposition to designation at either meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The beauty of this simple, Dutch Colonial farmhouse lies in its stone work and steeply sloping roof with overhang at front and back. This building shows how the Seventeenth Century farmer built as best he might, with the materials at hand - stone from the fields, rough hewn timbers and siding from the forests. The stone part of this house is rich in texture and has a solid timeless quality. Three dormer windows pierce the roof facing the front and are later additions. Changes have occurred over the years, such as the installation of modern casement windows. Fire destroyed the upper part of the house about 1955, but since then repairs have been made, and the homestead has been restored.

The farmhouse dates from about 1729 and was built by Abraham Lent, grandson of Abraham Riker. On the property was an important family cemetery with early tombs of the Rikers and Lents. The garden side of the grounds opens to the East River, and the site has ample space in which to preserve the character of the original farm.

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 Lent Homestead 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 Lent Homestead is a fine example of a Dutch Colonial farmhouse, that the house has excellent stone masonry and that it is one of the very last of the Dutch Colonial farmhouses remaining in Queens County.

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 Lent Homestead, 78-03 19th Road, Steinway, Borough of Queens and designates Tax Map Block 755, Lot 80, Borough of Queens, as its Landmark Site.