

Landmarks Preservation Commission  
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LP-0156

BROOKLYN CENTRAL OFFICE, BUREAU OF FIRE COMMUNICATIONS, 35 Empire Boulevard, Borough of Brooklyn. 1913; architect Frank J. Helmlé.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1183, Lot 51.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Brooklyn Central Office, Bureau of Fire Communications 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. Two speakers spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. In a letter to the Commission, Fire Commissioner Robert O. Lowery supported designation.

#### DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This Italian Renaissance Eclectic public building, designed in the form of a garden pavilion has great charm and architectural dignity. It is a fine example of an attractive style applied to a utilitarian civic structure. Three graceful arches with slender columns and a low balustrade, frame a deep porch or vestibule and create a fine central entrance. This one and one-half story brick and limestone building has handsomely scaled architectural details around the front door and windows, and has a plain cornice topped by a tile roof. The two horizontal string course mouldings at the window sill and first floor level are made continuous around the side-walls, adding a unifying element to the architectural design.

It is a charming pavilion located in an attractive site, closely related to the surrounding Botanical Garden and adjacent to Prospect Park. This is an important example of a civic structure which combines good building materials with a design which is highly appropriate for its setting.

#### 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 Brooklyn Central Office, Bureau of Fire Communications, 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 Brooklyn Central Office of Fire Communications is an important Civic structure beautifully proportioned and handsomely detailed which is perfectly adapted to its site, that it is a credit to the City as an example of good architectural design and that it serves to beautify a handsome conspicuous site.

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 Brooklyn Central Office, Bureau of Fire Communications, 35 Empire Boulevard, Borough of Brooklyn and designates Tax Map Block 1183, Lot 51, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.