

SHELTER PAVILION AND ATTACHED BUILDINGS, MONSIGNOR MCGOLRICK PARK, bounded by Nassau Avenue, Monitor Street, Driggs Avenue and Russell Street, Borough of Brooklyn. 1910; architects Helmle & Huberty.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 2687, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the land on which the described improvements are situated.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Shelter Pavilion and attached buildings, Monsignor McGolrick Park, and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 68). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The Park Department favors designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Located in a small park in Greenpoint is this very handsome crescent-shaped pavilion consisting of an open arcade with a small building at each end. In detail the Shelter Pavilion reminds us of the Grand Trianon at Versailles with its coupled columns and the arrangement of windows in the end pavilions. In the pavilions a central, arched window is framed by engaged columns with smaller square headed windows flanking this arched central window on either side. The corners are dignified by paired pilasters. A handsome balustrade surmounts each of the two end pavilions, while their cornices are carried through the full sweep of the colonnade, a strong unifying feature which gives coherence to the whole scheme.

This park shelter is of particular significance as it represents a piece of architecture which virtually controls the landscape plan around it. The form of the surrounding walks is closely related to that of the building. Designed along a curve, a segment of a circle, in which two charming pavilions are linked by the curved colonnade, this pavilion determines, by its curve, the lines of the oval in front of it from which radiate the paths which serve the park. This type of radial landscaping as determined by the form of the building is typically French and rarely encountered in America.

The handsome shade trees which line the radial walks leading out from the Shelter Pavilion form an attractive setting for it and provide an oasis in summer into which one can escape from the hot city streets which surround it. This park was originally known as Winthrop Park. In 1941 it was officially given its present name in honor of Monsignor Edward J. McGolrick Pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Greenpoint.

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 Shelter Pavilion and attached buildings, Monsignor McGolrick Park 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 Shelter Pavilion and attached buildings in Monsignor McGolrick Park provide an exceptionally attractive focal point in a small verdant park where the system of walks is carefully related to the architectural plan of the Pavilion, and that for its attractive scale, proportion and detail this Pavilion serves not only as a worthy convenience but as an attractive feature of this park.

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 Shelter Pavilion and attached buildings, Monsignor McGolrick Park, bounded by Nassau Avenue, Monitor Street, Driggs Avenue and Russell Street, Borough of Brooklyn and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 2687, Lot 1 which contains the land on which the described improvements are situated.