

Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 15, 1966, Number 8
LP-0170

FLATBUSH DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH, 866 Flatbush Avenue, Borough of Brooklyn.
Begun 1793, completed 1798; architect Thomas Fardon.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 5102, Lot 1 SE in part,
consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 71). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two speakers spoke in favor of designation. The minister of the church, Rev. Cornelius VanderNaald, said that he offered neither a plea for nor an objection to designation as a Landmark. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

One of the most beautifully scaled church spires in all New York City adorns the tower of the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church. At the base of the tower is the main doorway of this handsome Federal Style church. Above the square tower is located an extremely elegant octagonal wood lantern, with delicate columns at the corners, surmounted by sculptured urns and the spire.

Built of local stone and Holland brick, the walls rest on a foundation made from stones of an earlier church of 1699, which was demolished to make way for the present structure. The Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church is important as a noteworthy and rare example of our Eighteenth Century church architecture. The handsome Federal spire is a worthy companion to that of St. Paul's in Manhattan. This is the third church to be built on the same site since 1655.

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 Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church 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 Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church sets a high standard for the design and construction of a country church, that it is executed in fine materials, that it is a beautifully preserved early church, and that it stands on one of the oldest church sites in New York City.

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 Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church, 866 Flatbush Avenue, Borough of Brooklyn, and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 5102, Lot 1 SE which contains the land on which the described building is situated.