

FLATLANDS REFORMED CHURCH, Kings Highway and East 40th Street, Borough of Brooklyn. 1848.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 7812, Lot 1 NW.

On February 8, 1966, The Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Flatlands Reformed Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 78). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This is a Greek Revival church standing at the head of an avenue of Linden trees with lampposts in a lovely and spacious churchyard. The church is of clapboard, painted white; the yard, with an ancient cemetery adjacent, is enclosed by a fine wrought-iron fence; and the whole presents a living image of rural worship of a type which has all but disappeared from the City.

The building itself is an excellent example of the much beloved American country church. It is set on a stone foundation, and built on the site of two earlier churches, the earliest having been dedicated in 1663. The formal and stately front contains a handsome door and two tall triple-sash windows of superb proportions and delicately scaled detail. The cornice is simple and crowned by a low pitched pediment. Four pilasters, on the front, are repeated in the simple belfry which supports a graceful spire, topped with a gold ball and weathervane.

Also on the church grounds there is a Sunday School building and a small graveyard containing many old gravestones. Here are buried the Reverend Ulpianus Van Sinderen, the outspoken Revolutionary War minister known as "The Rebel Parson". Beneath the pulpit lie the remains of Pieter Claesen Wyckoff, the founder of the first church in 1654. The old Wyckoff house of 1640, where Pieter lived, still stands in nearby Canarsie. It is of interest to note that this beautiful church was erected by local labor at a cost of about \$5,500, including the pews and carriage sheds.

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 Flatlands 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, Flatlands Reformed Church is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival country church, that as an architecturally notable building, placed in a rural setting, it enhances the surrounding neighborhood, and that as the third Church occupying the same site this Parish has been continuously associated with the Flatlands community for over three hundred years.

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 Flatlands Reformed Church, Kings Highway and East 40th Street, Borough of Brooklyn and designates Tax Map Block 7812, Lot 1 NW, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.