

POPPENHUSEN INSTITUTE, 114-04 114th Road, College Point, Borough of Queens.
Completed 1868; architects Mundell & Teckritz.

Landmark Site: Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 4067, Lot 1.

On March 3, 1970, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Poppenhusen Institute and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 9). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness testified in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The chairman of Queens Community Board No. 7 has informed the Commission that his Board is strongly in favor of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Poppenhusen Institute, a symmetrical, three-story, brick building with mansard roof, is a dignified example of civic architecture of the post-Civil War period. The architects, Mundell & Teckritz, combined features derived from the Italianate style with a French Second Empire mansard roof, in a manner which was quite typical of the period.

The structure was erected in 1868 as a kindergarten for children of working class mothers and as a civic center. It also served as village hall, free public library and even as the local jail. In 1872, the newly established College Point Savings Bank rented space in the building.

The Institute was founded by Conrad Poppenhusen, a rubber manufacturer, who had emigrated here from Hamburg, Germany. In 1853, he established the Enterprise Rubber Company, the forerunner of a company which still exists in College Point. This was just three years before the large surrounding farms were broken into lots and the villages of Strattonport, College Point and Flammersburg came into being. In 1867, a year before the establishment of the Institute, the three villages were incorporated under the single name of College Point, in the Town of Flushing.

The original charter of the Institute, at Mr. Poppenhusen's insistence, specified that the school should be open to all, irrespective of race or creed. A bronze memorial statue of Poppenhusen stands at 12th Avenue and 122nd Street in College Point. The Institute continues to serve the community as a private vocational school and as an English language school for newly arrived immigrants. It also houses a public school kindergarten, run by the City's Board of Education.

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 Poppenhusen Institute 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 Poppenhusen Institute is a handsome example of the civic architecture of the late 1860s, that it has made a significant contribution as an educational institution serving its community and that it stands as a reminder of the important role played by immigrants from Germany in the development of the United States.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 63 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 Poppenhusen Institute, 114-04 114th Road, College Point, Borough of Queens and designates Tax Map Block 4067, Lot 1, Borough of Queens, as its Landmark Site.