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Landmarks Preservation Commission
October 29, 1968, Number 1
LP-0056

191 FRONT STREET BUILDING, Borough of Manhattan.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 74, Lot 12.

On October 19, 1965 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 191 Front Street Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 28). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This completely simple five-story brick warehouse building has nonetheless a very handsome first floor supported on square cast iron columns which once had Corinthian capitals and which display ornamental forms at the tops of the panels of the columns.

The window sills and lintels are also extremely simple, but a dignified dentiled roof cornice may be seen above the brick fascia at the top of this building. It aligns at roof level with No. 189 and, except for its cast iron store front, is architecturally quite similar to it.

Nos. 191 and 193 were originally built as one store but have both been remodeled since they were built and appear quite different today. We do not have the construction date of these buildings with double store, but we know that it was prior to 1793, for in that year it was assessed at \$2,250 and leased to Garrett Westful, a merchant, who was there in 1794 and '95. The property was sold to Minturn and Champlin, leading merchants, who occupied these buildings intermittently from 1804 to 1816. In 1804, this firm had commissioned Christian Bergh, the famous ship builder, to build the first ship, "The North America".

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 191 Front Street Building 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 191 Front Street Building displays a dignified brick exterior with cast iron store front, that it has severely simple windows and a handsome dentiled roof cornice, and that it is typical of the best of our mercantile buildings.

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 191 Front Street Building, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 74, Lot 12, Borough of Manhattan as its Landmark Site.