

Old Bronx Borough Hall, Tremont Avenue and Third Avenue in Crotona Park
Borough of The Bronx, architect George B. Post. 1897

Landmark Site: Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 2943 in part, consisting of
the land on which the described building is situated.

On September 21, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Old Bronx Borough Hall as a Landmark and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 21). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Eight witnesses testified in favor of designation of the building including the Borough Historian and representatives of the Bronx County Historical Society. A representative of the Park Department opposed the proposed designation. The East Tremont Neighborhood Association has written the Commission urging that the Borough Hall be demolished and the site be used for a new indoor recreation center. Community Planning Board No. 6 and three other local groups have supported the position of the East Tremont Neighborhood Association. In a letter to the Commission, the Borough President of The Bronx said that he would like "to reiterate my support of the designation of the Old Bronx Borough Hall as a historical landmark and urge your Commission to approve this designation."

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Old Bronx Borough Hall is a three-story building of brick and terra cotta by a leading architect of the time, George B. Post, who also designed the main building of the New York Stock Exchange at 8 Broad Street. The Borough Hall is designed in monumental terms. It stands as a good example of a public building through the nobility and scale of the architectural elements employed.

The Old Borough Hall is an especially important building for the Bronx because it is intimately identified with the history of the Borough from the time of its incorporation into the City of New York at the end of the 19th century. No other building in the entire Borough has more historical associations for the period concerned. For many years life in the Bronx centered around this building. The Commission's attention was drawn to this building by the great interest shown by many different segments of the Bronx community. Over recent months, this interest has continued to mount appreciably. It is apparent that the retention of the Old Borough Hall is a matter of great concern to the citizens of the Bronx.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of the building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Old Bronx Borough Hall 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 Old Bronx Borough Hall is a monumentally planned and executed building by a noted architect of the period and that it is closely associated with the history of the Bronx since it became a part of 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 Old Bronx Borough Hall, Tremont Avenue and Third Avenue in Crotona Park, Borough of The Bronx and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 2943 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.