

## ATTACHMENT TO LP-1890

Landmarks Preservation Commission  
July 19, 1994, Designation List 259  
LP-1890A

**DOLLAR SAVINGS BANK** (now Emigrant Savings Bank), first floor interior, consisting of the two Grand Concourse entrance vestibules, the main banking hall, and the southwest corner stairway leading to the basement; and the basement level interior consisting of the vault lobby; and the fixtures and interior components of these spaces, including, but not limited to, wall surfaces and attached decorative elements including murals, ceiling surfaces, doors, chandeliers and lighting fixtures, decorative bronze work including gates and grilles, and railings; 2516-2530 Grand Concourse, The Bronx.

Landmark Site: Borough of the Bronx Tax Map Block 3154, Lot 1001.

*Designated a New York City Interior Landmark as the Dollar Savings Bank (now Emigrant Savings Bank) on July 19, 1994*

On May 14, 1996, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment of the Interior Landmark designation of the Dollar Savings Bank (now Emigrant Savings Bank) interior to incorporate the underscoring of the significant features identified in the Description section of the designation report as specified in the Rules for Alterations to Designated Bank Interiors (Item No. 1). The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two witnesses testified in favor of the amendment. Three representatives of various banks stated that they had no objections to the proposed amendment. There were no speakers in opposition to the amendment.

### Description of the Interior of the Dollar Savings Bank\*

The Entrance Vestibules. These two vestibules from the Grand Concourse, projecting into either end of the banking room's west wall, are almost identical (Plate 3). Because of the Concourse's northward rise the north vestibule is two steps above the banking room pavement. The steps drop from either side of a stoop fronting the vestibule; a brass railing runs the width of the stoop. Sheathed in brass, inside and out, each vestibule has three glazed swinging doors of brass and a tripartite transom. Vestibule walls, doors, and transoms are articulated in the Art Deco style. The heating registers within the vestibules are faced with ornamental grilles cast in brass. Above them runs an inscription "Dollar Savings Bank," cast in bronze and flanked by meander motifs. A clock face is the central element of each vestibule's shaped crestings.

\*This description has been excerpted and slight modified from the original designation report for LP-1890. The plate numbers are those in the original report. Significant features in this interior space are underscored as specified in the Rules for Alterations to Designated Bank Interiors. "Significant features" are defined in Section 9-02 of the Rules.

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The Banking Room. A major order of polished red marble pilasters along both the west and east walls define the banking room's broad central section (Plate 2). Clerestories, apparently supported by giant terra-cotta corbels, characterize the hall's north and south ends. A frieze and architrave below the clerestories continues on the east wall. The corbels, in silhouette, are repeated flanking the pilasters. Chamfered corners link the clerestories and the east and west walls.

The tall windows between the pilasters on the west wall contain bronze filigree vertical and horizontal mullions and bronze muntins. The bays below the east wall's architrave are faced with polished limestone. Five murals, depicting the history of the Bronx's early settlement, fill the bays above the east wall's architrave (Plate 7).<sup>1</sup> The clerestory windows are presently screened by opaque blinds. The banking room ceiling is of ribbed and paneled plaster, picked out in silver gilt and gold leaf. Decorative motifs (Plate 6), derivative of classical ornamental forms including rosette bosses and emblematic meanders, articulate the intersection of ribs or their soffits. The writing desks are reproductions of an original writing desk. The chandeliers are original to the room (Plate 5).

Stairwell and Safe Deposit Vault Lobby. The stairway to the safe deposit vault lobby is in the banking room's southwest corner (Plate 3). An aluminum and opaque glass light fixture hangs above the stairwell. The stairwell, also lit by a small window, is faced with polished limestone; the wainscot and banister is of marble. An iron hand-railing runs down the center of each of the flights to the second landing and continues in a brass hand-railing, and brass hand-railings are fixed to banister and wainscot also. The lobby's floor is paved with terrazzo (Plate 8) in varied hues and patterns, the walls are faced with marble; the low ceiling is of paneled plaster. The gate and grilles of the safe deposit vault itself are fine examples of Art Deco foliate metalwork and designed to conform to the symmetrically pitched low ceiling.

A number of changes have been made to the banking room to accommodate the changing needs of the savings bank industry. These include the addition of down lights in the ceiling and security cameras at various points around the room. Since 1938, the tellers' counters have been fixed at several different locations throughout the room, including around the room's periphery as well as down the room's center. The present location of the tellers' counter is in the center of the northern half of the room. Neither this tellers' island nor its surrounding floor surface are included in this designation, nor are the alcoves beyond the east wall of the banking room.

### NOTES

1. From north to south, left to right, they are titled: Erecting the First Stone House (1938); The Original Bridge Connecting the Bronx with Manhattan (1938); Welcoming Settlers at Fort Schuyler (1957); Early Settlers Gathering at the First Community House (1938); Jonas Bronk buying the Land from the Indians (1938).

FINDINGS AND AMENDED DESIGNATION

The Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Interior of the Dollar Savings Bank (now Emigrant Savings Bank) has significant features as identified in the Description section of the designation report (LP-1890) as adopted by the Commission on July 19, 1994.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission amends its designation report to incorporate underscoring of the significant features in the Interior identified in the Description section of the designation report as specified in the Rules for Alterations to Designated Bank Interiors.