

Landmarks Preservation Commission  
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LP-0227

CLERGY HOUSES OF THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 444 East 14th Street, Borough of Manhattan, 1894; architects Barney & Chapman.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 441, Lot 12.

On April 12, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Clergy Houses of the Church of the Immaculate Conception 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. Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

#### DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This pair of three and one-half story brick and stone Clergy Houses in French Renaissance Eclectic style, have about them an air of refined elegance in their purity of design, and in the excellent refinement of their architectural details. Adjacent to and contiguous with the Church of Immaculate Conception, they complete and augment the superb composition of this ecclesiastical complex. The two buildings are joined by a wide, low sweeping arch, framing an entranceway to a small courtyard. The north elevations are similar in treatment containing two windows at the street floor, stone mullioned double windows on the next two floors and gabled dormer windows set in the slate roof of the attic story. Belt course mouldings at the second and fourth floors continue in horizontal bands around the building adding a decorative accent and a unifying element to the architectural design.

In their appearance, these two Clergy Houses closely resemble small French Chateaux. The charm and restrained elegance of these buildings on Fourteenth Street enhances the neighborhood and relieves the drabness of the vernacular structures on a rather architecturally undistinguished thoroughfare.

Once a part of Grace Church Parish, the Chapel and Clergy Houses were known as Grace Chapel and Hospital on Fourteenth Street and were furnished as a "free-pew" place of worship for those less fortunate financially than the members of Grace Church itself. In the days of the great nationalities migrations, it had done yeoman's service for the incoming European Protestants. In 1943, the buildings were sold to the Catholic Church which has preserved and now makes good use of these buildings.

#### 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 Clergy Houses of the Church of the Immaculate Conception 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 Clergy Houses of the Church of the Immaculate Conception are a superior example of French Renaissance Eclectic architecture, that their style, design, excellent workmanship and stone details are in complete harmony with the adjacent Church and that together with the other buildings, they form a superb composition contributing to the architectural beauty of our 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 Clergy Houses of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 444 East 14th Street, Borough of Manhattan, and designates Tax Map Block 441, Lot 12, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.