

GOULD MEMORIAL LIBRARY, New York University, University Heights, Hall of Fame Terrace at Sedgwick Avenue, The Bronx. 1900; architects McKim, Mead & White.

Landmark Site: Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3222, Lot 62 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On January 11, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Gould Memorial Library and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 14). Two witnesses including the representative of New York University spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until February 8, 1966 (Item No. 13). At that time no speakers appeared to testify. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers in opposition to designation at either meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Gould Memorial Library, located centrally inside the sweeping curve of the Hall of Fame, is an imposing example of the Eclectic Roman Style of architecture. It ranks as one of the fine works in the Classic tradition in this country. This large rectangular, domed building has an impressive portico with Corinthian columns on the campus side. The other three facades have Corinthian pilasters of limestone set against walls of Roman brick. Windows are appropriately set between the pilasters. Together these elements create a beautiful structure with fine architectural details.

The importance of this notable building lies in its achievement of great Classical dignity and monumental grandeur. The square block rising from its central nave has a circular drum and low saucer-dome richly ornamented with a superb cornice of majestic proportions. In addition to these qualities, the library's imposing proportions and rich detail give distinction to its central location.

In a letter to the Commission, Dean J. W. Knedler, Jr. of the University College of Arts and Science at New York University endorsed the proposed designation of the four buildings on the University Heights Campus. "They constitute a monumental group which we regard as the heart of the campus..... Such a move would be a gratification not only to the present members of the College community but to its graduate body. More important, it would be a recognition of the superb work done by McKim, Mead and White in collegiate architecture."

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 Gould Memorial Library 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 Gould Memorial Library is a Classical structure of the first magnitude, built with fine materials and beautiful details and that the straightforward rectangular plan is admirably suited to its site, enclosed within the handsome semicircle of the Hall of Fame.

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 Gould Memorial Library, New York University, University Heights, Hall of Fame Terrace at Sedgwick Avenue, the Bronx and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of The Bronx Tax Map 3222, Lot 62 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.