

DANIEL LEROY HOUSE, 20 St. Mark's Place, Borough of Manhattan. Completed 1832; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 463, Lot 19.

On December 27, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Daniel Leroy House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 52). 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. The owners have informed the Commission that they approve of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

In the Early Nineteenth Century, St. Marks Place (formerly known as Eighth Street) was one of the most elegant residential streets in the City. The Daniel Leroy House is one of an entire blockfront erected in 1832 on the south side. Three stories high, with basement and attic, it was constructed in Flemish bond brickwork, trimmed with stone and has retained much of its original architectural detail. The arched stone entrance has a triple keystone and blocks in the enframing which are decorated with vermiculation. The impressive doorway is a good example of the late Federal style. This wide house, built during a transitional period of changing architectural styles, also shows the influence of the Greek Revival period in the pedimented lintels over the windows. They are identical with those that remain on the building next door at Number 18, and at Numbers 4 and 28. 29

This residence is the only one of four houses built in 1832 on this block that retains its original ornately decorated iron handrails at the stoop, including low bird cage newell posts and its iron railings in the parlor floor windows. The roof cornice has been remodeled. Utilitarian doors and a plain transom replaced what must surely have been a beautiful fanlight transom. The basement level, four steps down from the sidewalk, has been converted to a restaurant and the original stone wall of the ground floor is now covered by a composition stone veneer, simulating random ashlar.

Number 20 St. Marks Place is approximately contemporary with the Washington Square North houses of the eighteen thirties, the unique Seabury Tredwell House of 1832 and La Grange Terrace (Colonnade Row) completed only four years later. These dwellings, all within walking distance of each other, were part of New York City's most fashionable residential area before the middle of the Nineteenth Century. Daniel Leroy was son-in-law to Elizabeth (Stuyvesant) and Nicholas Fish who lived in nearby 21 Stuyvesant Street, also a Landmark.

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 Daniel Leroy House 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 Daniel Leroy House, 20 St. Marks Place is a good example of early Nineteenth Century brick residential architecture, designed in the late Federal Style, that it contains many of its original architectural details and that it is the only house remaining on this block at all representative of the elegant residences built in 1832 which once lined this street.

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 Daniel Leroy House, 20 St. Marks Place, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 463, Lot 19, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.