

BOAT HOUSE on the Lullwater of the Lake in Prospect Park, Borough of Brooklyn, 1904, architects Helmle & Huberty.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax map Block 1117 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 Prospect Park Boat House as a Landmark and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 4). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. More than 15 witnesses appeared and spoke in favor of designation of the building. Speakers included the Deputy Borough President of Brooklyn representing the Borough President in Brooklyn and a representative of the Park Commissioner. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This Boat House is a park pavilion of distinction and is the chief ornament of the headwaters of the lake, which is an important feature of Prospect Park. It is a graceful two-story structure of terra-cotta in the Eclectic-Italian Renaissance Style.

The building accurately reflects the change of taste when Classicism was re-established in the United States by the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. Public Buildings subsequently tended to be built in the Classic Roman Style. In the Boat House, its classic antecedents are readily apparent and are treated with scholarship and a firm grasp of principles. The first story of the Boat House, with its alternating arches and Doric columns, is a fine rendition of a familiar classical theme, which was given prominence in the Library of St. Mark's in Venice. In front of the line of arches, at the head of a graceful flight of stairs, is a row of handsome bronze lamps, one opposite each column, contributing to the festive air, which characterizes the building.

At the public hearing the representative of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects evaluated the building as follows: "This is the only boat house of such handsome proportions in New York City. It is a graceful classical structure with a beautifully detailed terra-cotta façade, and it is well-related to its woodland waterfront site."

The Prospect Park Boat House is an outstanding example of the work of a prominent Brooklyn architect, the designer of a number of domed banks, which are a feature of the Borough. The building stands as a memorial to the days when Brooklyn had its own proud school of classical 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 Prospect Park Boat 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 Prospect Park Boat House is a significant representative of American architecture of the early 20th century, that the building is an imaginatively designed structure with many handsome features and that it is an essential component of the superb landscape setting of Prospect Park.

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 Boat House on the Lullwater of the Lake in Prospect Park, Borough of Brooklyn, and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1117, which contains the land on which the described Boat House is situated.