

FORT SCHUYLER, State University of New York Maritime College (east of the Throggs Neck Bridge), Throggs Neck, Borough of The Bronx. Begun 1833, completed 1856.

Landmark Site: Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 5530, Lot 100 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 Fort Schuyler, State University of New York Maritime College and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 26). One witness spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until February 8, 1966 (Item No. 25). 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. In a letter from Vice Admiral H. C. Moore, U. S. C. G. (Ret.), President of the College, he stated, "Designation of Fort Schuyler as a Landmark certainly appears to be appropriate and consistent with the thinking of both Federal and State governments".

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This handsome pentagonal Fort, built of Connecticut granite, was originally designed for an armament of three hundred and twelve guns. It is a fine example of military masonry construction with its horizontally coursed, rock-faced granite stones square-edged to provide flush mortar joints. Small arches are neatly cut out of single pieces of stone, while larger openings are skillfully built up of individual stones (voussoirs) with a keystone at the top. This massive pile is a fort in every sense of the word, with walls ranging in thickness from five to eleven feet. The restrained simplicity of its detail, except for the square-headed main entrance, scarcely suggests the existence of the Greek Revival style of architecture then in vogue.

Historically it was built as a protection for New York City and combined with Fort Totten which lies opposite it, it could rake the lower end of Long Island Sound, where it enters the East River, with gunfire. It was garrisoned during the Civil War and finally abandoned in 1870, not to be rehabilitated until 1934 when the W.P.A. restored it to use as a Merchant Marine Academy. Today it is still well maintained.

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 Fort Schuyler, State University of New York Maritime College 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, Fort Schuyler represents an interesting early type of fortification, that it is beautifully built of massive granite construction, that although exhibiting little detail, the workmanship of its masonry walls and openings is outstanding, that it was for many years a defensible fort protecting New York City and that today remodelled as a marine academy, it serves a useful purpose.

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 Fort Schuyler, State University of New York Maritime College, Throggs Neck, Borough of The Bronx and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 5530, Lot 100 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.