

JOHN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, 44 John Street, Borough of Manhattan, 1841, architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 67, Lot 30.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the John Street Methodist Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 27). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

John Street Methodist Church is a fine small church with an outstanding Anglo-Italianate façade. The church has remained virtually untouched in the heart of the financial district since it was built over a century ago. This church is notable for its simple dignity, having as a central feature an extremely handsome Palladian window placed directly above the broad main entrance door. Flanking this doorway are two elongated round-arched windows; the top of the arches of these two windows relate skillfully both in size and height with the Palladian window. The handsome gable (pediment) enframes a broad, low-arched window, creating over-all proportions of great charm and dignity.

This building is the third Methodist Church in this location and occupies the site of the first church of that denomination ever erected in this City. It is strongly associated with the memory of John Wesley's American disciples Philip Embury and Barbara Heck. The John Street Methodist Church is important as a memorial of the founding of Methodism in New York City and as a small but dignified example of a church building of the Mid-Nineteenth Century. It is the restrained quality of its architectural expression, which endears it to New Yorkers today.

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 John Street Methodist Church 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 John Street Methodist Church is an outstanding example of the best architecture produced on a small scale in the Anglo-Italianate Style, that it has restraint and great dignity in its design and that as the first home in New York City of Methodism, it serves as a fitting and important symbol of that faith.

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 John Street Methodist Church, Borough of Manhattan, and designates Tax Map Block 67, Lot 30, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.