

1966

Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 15, 1966, Number 7
LP-0165

KINGS COUNTY SAVINGS BANK, 135 Broadway, Borough of Brooklyn. 1868;
architects King & Wilcox.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 2457, Lot 45.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Kings County Savings Bank and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 66). Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until March 8, 1966 (Item No. 2). 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 to the Commission, the attorneys for the bank indicated that the bank "has not entered an objection in this matter".

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

As an imposing four-story building with Mansard roof of the French Second Empire period, the Kings County Savings Bank is impressive in its monumental scale. It has excellent proportions and many fine architectural details. The main entrance doorway is dominated by a handsome porch with elaborate carving in the pediment. A cast iron balustrade flanks the building on the property line enclosing the bank. Arched windows at ground floor level, with carved keystone blocks, support the strong horizontal stone course extending around the building. Belt courses supported by columns at the fronts of the second and third floors, also extend around the building. A very ornate bracketed cornice crowns the building at the fourth floor.

This handsome building was given a rich architectural treatment by its architects. It is in many ways a unique structure and its composition displays a wealth of ornament and diverse architectural elements. The relative simplicity of its west facade is well contrasted by the more ornate expression of the front elevation. Corner stones, or quoins, at the corners of the building are a strong unifying element in this structure and add to its great feeling of solidity and dignity.

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 Kings County Savings Bank 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 Kings County Savings Bank is an outstanding example of French Second Empire architecture, that it has rich architectural details and stately proportions and that it is a business building of imposing grandeur, which has served the banking needs of Williamsburg for almost one hundred years.

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 Kings County Savings Bank, 135 Broadway, Borough of Brooklyn and designates Tax Map Block 2457, Lot 45, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.