

OLD NEW YORK EVENING POST BUILDING, 20 Vesey Street, Borough of Manhattan. 1906, architect Robert D. Kohn.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 88, Lot 5.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Old New York Evening Post Building as a Landmark and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 49). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation. The owner of the building notified the Commission that they were opposed to designation of it as a Landmark.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This fourteen-story building, designed by Robert D. Kohn, is a steel-framed structure veneered with stone. It is a fine example of the rarely used Art Nouveau Style which began in Europe at the turn of the century. This building is also notable as the home of the New York Evening Post while it was under the ownership of Oswald Garrison Villard.

The building is particularly interesting because, although Art Nouveau in inspiration, it is not copied from any particular building executed in that style. It is primarily a free expression of the architect's individuality. In general appearance its ornament, windows and copper roof are more Continental than American and are reminiscent of the boulevards of Paris. The four elongated sculptured figures on the front of the building provide a striking, vertical emphasis. Two of them are the work of Gutzon Borglum.

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 Old New York Evening Post Building 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 Old New York Evening Post Building is one of the few outstanding Art Nouveau Style buildings ever constructed in this country and that its ornament and sculpture, executed in part by Gutzon Borglum, attain a high artistic level.

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 Old New York Evening Post Building, 20 Vesey Street, Borough of Manhattan, and designates Tax Map Block 88, Lot 5, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.