

Landmarks Preservation Commission
January 24, 1967, Number 1
LP-0300

RECTORY OF THE CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME, 409 West 114th Street, Borough of Manhattan.
Begun 1913, Completed 1914; architects Cross & Cross.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1867, Lot 14.

On June 14, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Rectory of the Church of Notre Dame and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 32). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Rectory of Notre Dame is a handsome three story building of gray brick and stone designed as a modified version of a Sixteenth Century palazzo. It has a wide front facade but comparatively little depth in order to avail itself of the narrow area behind the church. The facade is divided into three horizontal divisions by string courses. The rounded corners of the building are a notable feature with windows set in them. The slightly projected central section of the building is outlined by quoins. In this section the handsome arched window extends through two stories. This central section rises for an additional half story and has a bulls-eye window and is topped by a cross. A low parapet runs along the roof on either side.

Cross and Cross designed this building while they were doing plans for the enlargement of the church. Their choice of an Italian Renaissance style accords well with the classicism of the church.

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 Rectory of the Church of Notre Dame 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 Rectory of Notre Dame is of interest not only for its quiet distinction but because of the skillful way the architects have related it to the church, that it is well designed to best make use of an unusually narrow site and that it provides a dignified Rectory for the Church of Notre Dame.

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 Rectory of the Church of Notre Dame, 409 West 114th Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 1867, Lot 14, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.