

CHAPEL (located west of Fillmore Street), Sailors' Snug Harbor, Richmond Terrace, New Brighton, Borough of Richmond, 1354.

Landmark Site: Tax Map Block 76, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On September 21, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Chapel at Sailors' Snug Harbor 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. Five witnesses spoke in favor of designation of the six proposed Landmarks at Sailors' Snug Harbor. Two representatives of the owner, the trustees of Sailors' Snug Harbor, appeared in opposition to the proposed designations. In their memorandum to the Commission, the trustees said that they "see no reason" why the Chapel should be designated as a Landmark. The trustees added that they have "no expectation" that the Chapel "will need remodeling or replacement in the immediate future."

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This attractive little Chapel is a good representative of the romantic phase of American architecture of the mid-19th Century. Set in ample grounds, the structure forms a part of the group of buildings of Sailors' Snug Harbor and is located on the grounds facing the East-West axial roadway and just behind the theatre. The Chapel is a brick building with round-arched windows and a handsome tower which rises considerably above the roof and has a belfry. In the Chapel is a fine set of stained glass windows of the period.

The Chapel is of the Anglo-Italianate Style of architecture which was one of the many romantic styles which co-existed in America with the Gothic Revival in the 1850's. An attempt was made in the Anglo-Italianate Style to recreate the churches of the early Italian Renaissance. Here in this Chapel, however, the architect followed the basic plan of the early New England church. Among other New England features the tower is centered at one end of the building. Nonetheless this Chapel is unmistakably Italianate in its details.

At the public hearing, one representative of the Architects' Council of New York City evaluated the building as follows: "The Chapel is an impressive, simple architectural statement of belief rarely achieved in these days..." This Chapel is one of those church buildings so representative of the religious aspirations of mid-19th Century America in which we interpreted our ideals in terms of European models to provide a more impressive structure for a house of worship.

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 Chapel at Sailors' Snug Harbor 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 Sailors' Snug Harbor Chapel is a fine and distinctive example of the Anglo-Italianate Style of architecture in this country and that even with its Italian inspiration, the design nevertheless continues in an interesting manner the simple, American church tradition.

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 Chapel (located west of Fillmore Street), Sailors' Snug Harbor, Richmond Terrace, New Brighton, Borough of Richmond, and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 76, Lot 1 which contains the land on which the described Chapel is situated.