

SCOTT-EDWARDS HOUSE, 752 Delafield Avenue, Staten Island. Built about 1730; remodelled about 1840.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 230, Lot 33.

On September 13, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Scott-Edwards House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 31). 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. In a letter to the Commission, the owners said that they were "proud and pleased" about the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Scott-Edwards House, with its Dutch Colonial architecture and Greek Revival alterations of 1840, is a charming country residence. This one and one-half story modest structure with stone basement dates from the early Eighteenth Century. The combination of bold-faced ashlar masonry of sandstone, for the ground floor, and clapboard above contributes to its picturesque beauty. The superior architectural quality of this House, as remodelled, is enhanced by a variety of shrubbery and trees in a beautifully landscaped site.

The 1840 additions included a handsome Greek Revival portico. The long, graceful sweep of the roof is supported by seven box columns forming a spacious veranda extending the width of the facade. Floor to ceiling windows of the double hung type are complemented by panelled shutters. Above these windows, and set under the eaves, is a row of low attic windows. Centered in the white-washed stone wall are two entrance doors framed with plain pilasters and flanked by narrow side lights. The rear of the House features a bay window with insets of English tinted glass, considered to be over two hundred years old. The garage to the left of the veranda is a Twentieth Century addition.

Historical Significance

The Scott-Edwards House was built on a parcel of the old Governor Dongan grant of 1677. The property later came into the possession of Governor Dongan's nephew. A search does not show clear ownership of the House during the Revolutionary period, and presumably the residence was a tenant house on the Dongan Estate. During the 1840's the residence became the home of Judge Ogden Edwards, a descendant of Jonathan Edwards and cousin of Aaron Burr. The Judge later was appointed a New York Supreme Court Justice, the first to have come from Staten Island. The Judge lived here from 1840 to 1850. From 1881 to 1892 the House was owned by Adam Scott, a florist. Subsequently, the residence passed into the hands of Samuel Henshaw, an employee of the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Mr. Henshaw was in large part responsible for the skillful planting of the shrubbery which enhances the overall appeal of the architecture.

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 Scott-Edwards House 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 Scott-Edwards House is a pleasing architectural synthesis of Dutch Colonial elements with the Island's indigenous feature, the long, graceful springing eave; that its Greek Revival additions are architecturally notable and that it is associated with a past owner who was significant in New York City's history.

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 Scott-Edwards House, 752 Delafield Avenue, Borough of Richmond and designates Tax Map Block 230, Lot 33, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.