

Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 15, 1966, Number 1
LP-0119

VARIAN HOUSE, Varian House Park, East of Bainbridge Avenue between Van Cortlandt Avenue East and East 208th Street, Borough of The Bronx. Built about 1775, architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3343, Lot 500 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On January 11, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Varian House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 21). One witness spoke in favor of designation. The Commission continued the public hearing until February 8, 1966 (Item No. 20). At that time speaking in favor of designation was the representative of the Bronx County Historical Society who will operate the building. Both hearings were duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers in opposition to designation at either meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Varian House is an admirably proportioned two-story house with a central hall. The building is constructed of rough dressed, cut fieldstone with characteristic wood details of the period, which give it documentary importance. Built about 1775, it exemplifies at medium scale the Georgian building tradition as practiced here. As part of the architectural history of the region, the Varian House has great interest for us when compared with the Van Cortlandt Mansion of 1748 and the Dyckman Farmhouse of about 1783. Taken together this trio presents a graphic picture of living conditions in this country in the second half of the Eighteenth Century. Varian House has been moved to a permanent site and is destined to be preserved for posterity as the new home of the Bronx County Historical Society beginning some time in 1966.

Varian House is important historically because it is one of a small group of Eighteenth Century residences remaining in New York City. The Varian family was of note in the annals of our City where Isaac L. Varian served as Mayor from 1839 to 1841 and George W. Varian served as Alderman in 1856. The family name is further perpetuated in Varian Avenue in the Bronx.

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 Varian 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, Varian House is a fine but simple example of Georgian domestic architecture solidly constructed of good materials.

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 Varian House, Varian House Park, East of Bainbridge Avenue between Van Cortlandt Avenue and East 208th Street, The Bronx and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 3343, Lot 500 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.

NOT TO BE
REMOVED