

VICARAGE OF THE CHAPEL OF THE INTERCESSION, 540 West 155th Street, Borough of Manhattan. Begun 1911, completed 1914, architects Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 2085, Lot 32.

On June 14, 1966 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Vicarage of the Chapel of the Intercession and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 39). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Three witnesses spoke in favor of designation. The attorney for Trinity Parish also spoke at the hearing.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This Vicarage is an integral part of the group of buildings adjoining the Chapel of the Intercession. The building is a spacious house connected to the Chapel by a handsome cloister surrounding a small inner courtyard. It is constructed of the same materials as the Chapel, but whereas the Chapel is basically Perpendicular Gothic, the Vicarage is a fine expression in stone of domestic Tudor architecture.

A massive chimney dominates the gable end of this Vicarage on 155th Street. Beside it is a handsome segmental-arched doorway, connected continuously by panels with the two windows above it. Here, as in the two-story bay window on the north wall, the use of smooth-surfaced dressed stone contrasts handsomely with the rough-textured stone of the walls. Slate roofs, similar to those on the Chapel, are used for the picturesque gabled roof and provide another shade in the subtle range of muted colors.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission recognizes that the Landmark on the property in question (and the Landmark Site) is wholly used for religious and directly related charitable purposes by Trinity Parish and that the needs of Trinity Parish for such uses may change in the years ahead, entailing alterations in the existing structures or the creation of other structures on the Landmark Site. By this designation of the Landmark above described and the Landmark Site on which it is located, it is not intended to freeze the structure in its present state or to prevent future appropriate alterations needed to meet changed requirements of use for religious and directly related charitable purposes. The Commission believes it has the obligation and, indeed, it has the desire to cooperate with owners of Landmarks who may wish to make changes in their properties. In this connection the Commission wishes to state at this time that it recognizes that Trinity Parish may want to erect new buildings in the future on its grounds at the Chapel of the Intercession. The Commission recognizes that Trinity Parish may also wish to make exterior alterations to its existing buildings at the Chapel of the Intercession. The Commission looks forward to working with the representatives of Trinity Parish when the Church desires to erect new buildings on its grounds or to make exterior alterations on its existing buildings.

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 Vicarage of the Chapel of the Intercession 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 Vicarage of the Chapel of the Intercession is an extremely handsome Tudor house of the Eclectic Period, that it is built of the finest materials, skillfully combined and contrasted, and that as an integral part of the group of buildings connected with the Chapel it contributes remarkably well to the picturesqueness of the group as a whole.

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 Vicarage of the Chapel of the Intercession, 540 West 155th Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 2085, Lot 32, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.