



Landmarks Preservation Commission

Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties

Bronx Items

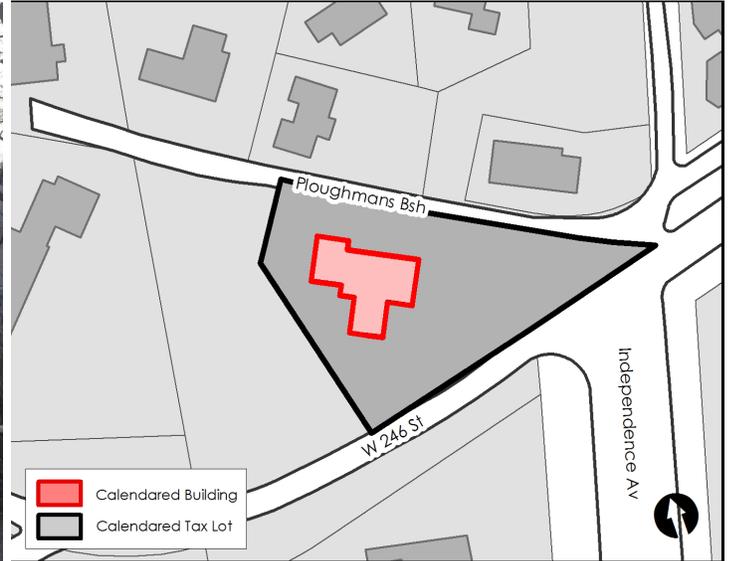
Fact sheet updated 9/24/2015 (additional hearing date)

6 Ploughman’s Bush Building (aka Fieldston Delafield Estate Building)

6 Ploughman’s Bush, Bronx
Bronx Block: 05924; Lot: 0518

Bronx Community Board 8

Public Hearing Date(s): 06/15/2004; 01/24/2006;
02/14/2006, 12/15/2009



Legend:
[Red Box] Calendared Building
[Grey Box] Calendared Tax Lot



Photos: (left) 2009 (right) 2006

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of the Bronx on **October 8, 2015** and encourages interested parties to submit written testimony in advance of that hearing. Each speaker will be given three minutes total to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within the Borough, just particular items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance, and submit their written statements and materials that will be read at the hearing by **October 1, 2015** to backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov.

If you have any questions about this property or the hearing process, please contact backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building’s research file.



**Landmarks Preservation
Commission**

6 Ploughman's Bush Building (aka Fieldston Delafield Estate Building) Description Landmark Type: Individual

Built: c. 1867

Architect: unknown

Style: Gothic Revival

Research Staff Hearing Statement (2009)

FIELDSTON (DELAFIELD ESTATE) BUILDING
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

The Fieldston (Delafield Estate) Building appears to be a rare example in New York City of a 19th-century rural bracketed, board-and-batten estate outbuilding. In 1829, Major Joseph Delafield, president of the Lyceum of Natural History in New York, acquired the 257-acre Hadley farm in (then) Yonkers that spread eastward from the shore of the Hudson River. Delafield named his estate "Fieldston" after his family's seat in Ireland, and established a profitable lime kiln on the property in 1830. A cottage, named "Fieldston Lodge," was built in 1849 as a three-bay, 1-1/2-story Gothic Revival style summer home in the mode of Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing. This area, known as Riverdale after 1852, became popular for the estates of wealthy New York families, who acquired large tracts of land here beginning in the late 1820s. These included lawyer William Lewis Morris' residence (later called Wave Hill), built in 1843-44, and actor Edwin Forrest's Fonthill, built in 1848-52. The Hudson River Railroad, completed in this vicinity in 1849, provided convenient access to New York City.

For some time prior to Major Delafield's death in 1875, Fieldston Lodge was in use as the summer cottage of his eldest son, Lewis Livingston Delafield. The father's will, written in 1867, mentions that the property then contained two cottages, one in use by the father and one in use by the son, as well as outbuildings such as a "stable and coachhouse and laundry." Lewis Delafield expanded Fieldston Lodge in 1877-78 to five bays and two full stories plus a slate-covered mansard roof, with a wide front verandah. Local builder Samuel L. Berrian executed this addition. The building that is today No. 6 Ploughman's Bush is similar in style and details to the expanded Fieldston Lodge (which remained until at least the 1950s). A review of real estate maps, however, demonstrates that the Ploughman's Bush building may appear as early as 1867.

The eastern portion of the Joseph Delafield Estate was developed by the Delafield family as the community of Fieldston in 1909-23, and the western part of the estate was later subdivided. This outbuilding is the only surviving building remnant of the original Delafield Estate, an estate associated with one of New York City's, and the Bronx's, leading families. It is also a significant reminder of the era when the Riverdale section of the Bronx was largely a private community of rural, and later, suburban summer estates.