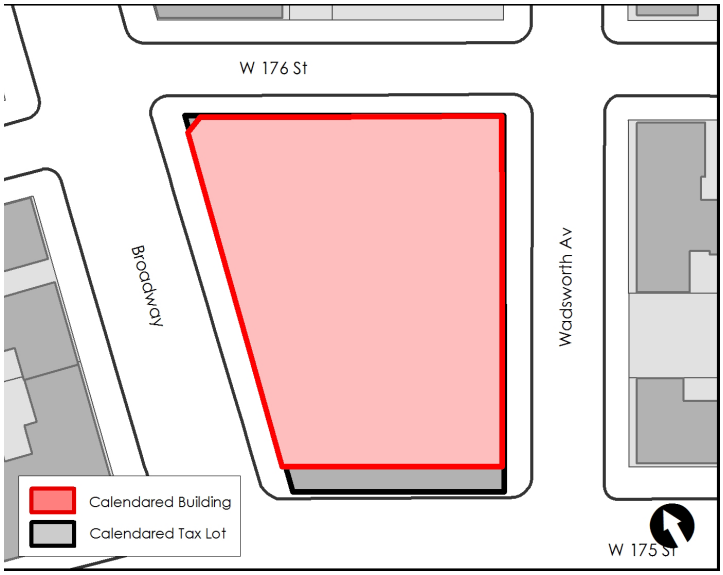
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties
Manhattan B Group 2 Items

Loew's 175th Street Theater
4140 Broadway, Manhattan
Manhattan Block: 02145 Lot: 0001

Manhattan Community Board 12
Public Hearing Date(s): 05/13/1980



Photos: (top, left and center) 2014, (bottom) undated

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Manhattan on **November 12, 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 Manhattan B Group 2, 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 **November 5, 2015** to backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov. If you are unable to attend the hearing, your written submissions will be entered into the record and distributed to the Commissioners.

If you have 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

Loew's 17th Street Theater

Landmark Type: Individual

Built: 1932
Architect: Thomas W. Lamb
Style: Eclectic

Research Staff Hearing Statement (1980)

LOEW'S 175TH STREET THEATRE, Broadway at 175th Street, Manhattan. (LP-0656)

Loew's 175th Street Theatre, now the meeting house of the United Christian Evangelistic Association, Inc., is one of the finest and most exuberant examples of the movie palaces and was built in 1932. It was one of three extravagantly ornate movie houses designed for the Loew chain by the noted theatre architect Thomas W. Lamb. No expense was spared to provide the audience with the most glamorous setting possible for the enjoyment of motion pictures.

The huge theatre, accommodating 3,726 persons, is a massive free-standing structure which occupies an entire city block. This gave the architect an exceptional opportunity and four facades, which can be seen from Broadway, 175th Street, Wadsworth Avenue and 176th Street, giving it a monumentality unusual in the city. For the design of this imposing building, constructed of brick with terra cotta trim and ornament, the architect turned to Oriental prototypes. The profusion of surface ornament, so typical of the architecture of India, makes a lively contrast to the brick surfaces. The pergola, surmounted by a dome, which rises above one corner of the building, cleverly camouflages a water tower.