



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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News Release

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES THE THOMSON METER COMPANY BUILDING IN BROOKLYN

February 10, 2004 - Today, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the Thomson Meter Company Building in Brooklyn.

“The Thomson Meter Company Building is significant for its architectural construction and detailing as well as its rich history,” said Robert B. Tierney, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. *“It is a jewel in Brooklyn’s streetscape.”*

The Thomson Meter Company factory building was built in 1908-09 to the design of Louis E. Jallade, with the Hennebique Construction Company as general contractor. Reinforced concrete was employed in its construction, with the columns and walls poured at the same time. Spandrels were filled with tapestry brickwork, while the structure was terminated by radiant polychrome terra cotta above arched windows.



Prolific architect Louis Eugene Jallade (1876-1957) studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts (1901-03), subsequently working on the construction of the Ansonia Hotel (1899-1904, Paul E. DuBois) and the Union Theological Seminary (1906-07, Allen & Collens). He practiced independently after 1905, his first commission being the Naval YMCA building (1906-08), Norfolk, Va.

Scottish-born inventor John Thomson (1853-1926) founded the Thomson Meter Company c. 1890 in Brooklyn to manufacture his patented water meters. The success of the firm led to the construction of this four-story (plus basement) factory. Sold in 1927 to the New York Eskimo Pie Corp., a recently incorporated subsidiary of the Eskimo Pie Corp. of Louisville, Ky., this building was used for the manufacture of Eskimo Pie products and as a milk-bottling distribution plant until 1966. The building is currently used for commercial and industrial uses.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency responsible for designating and regulating New York City’s landmarks. To date, the Commission has designated 1,102 individual landmarks, 104 interior landmarks, 9 scenic landmarks, and 81 historic districts with 10 district extensions.