



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7700 FAX: 212-669-7960
www.nyc.gov/landmarks



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Contact: Diane Jackier
(212) 669-7923

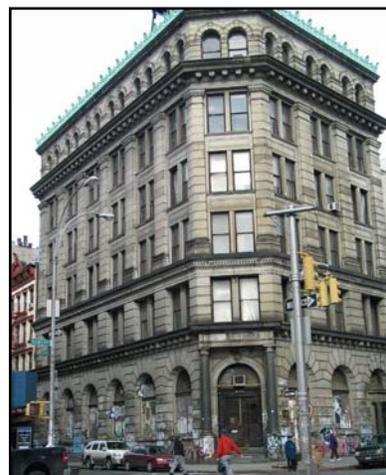
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK IN MANHATTAN

“Although this monumental Beaux Arts building has changed uses through the years, its essential structural integrity has remained unchanged in this constantly evolving neighborhood,” said Robert B. Tierney, Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

(Former) Germania Bank Building, 190 Bowery, Manhattan

The former Germania Bank building is an impressive Beaux Arts-style structure prominently located on the northwest corner of the Bowery and Spring Street. Built in 1898-99 to the designs of architect Robert Maynicke, it was the third home of the Germania Bank, which was established in 1869 by a group of local businessmen of German descent. In 1917, the company changed its name to the Commonwealth Bank and was later acquired by the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company.

Architect Robert Maynicke attended Cooper Union, about ten blocks to the north of this building, and worked for the noted architect George B. Post before co-founding the firm Maynicke & Franke in 1895. The Germania Bank building is considered to be one of his most important designs.



The granite and brick building features rusticated stonework, a chamfered corner with an arched entry flanked by Tuscan columns, and multi-story pilasters. The ground floor features large arched openings with voussoirs surmounted a massive denticulated cornice. A similar cornice terminates the fifth story. The top story features paired arched openings also surrounded with voussoirs and concludes in an elaborate copper cheneau.

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 1,119 individual landmarks, 104 interior landmarks, 9 scenic landmarks, and 83 historic districts.