



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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COMMISSION CONFERS LANDMARK STATUS ON EARLY 20th- CENTURY DOUBLE FIREHOUSE IN QUEENS

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to designate as a landmark Fire Engine Company No. 258, Hook and Ladder Company No. 115, a rare Dutch Renaissance Revival-style structure designed by Bradford Lee Gilbert, the architect who was responsible for the City's first skyscraper.

Located at 10-40 47th Avenue in the Hunter's Point section of Long Island City, the 4 ½ -story structure was built in 1904 as part of a campaign to expand fire protection in Queens and improve working conditions for the borough's firefighters.

"This proud building is undoubtedly one of the finest firehouses in New York City," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "It was Gilbert's only commission for the Fire Department, and historically has housed two companies with a long tradition of public service to the City."



The firehouse is topped by a monumental step gable -- a feature commonly seen in early 17th-century architecture in Holland -- that recalls the City's Dutch beginnings. The imposing, 50-foot wide façade is laid with Flemish bond brick with burnt headers, projecting metal cant window bays and oversized masonry details.

Architect Bradford Lee Gilbert previously designed the Tower Building, an 11-story Romanesque Revival style building that was completed in 1889 and thought to be New York City's first skyscraper. The *New York Times* referred to Gilbert as "the father of the skyscraper" in his obituary.

Of the 221 firehouses throughout the City, 16 -- including Engine Company No. 258, Hook and Ladder Company No. 115 -- are landmarks. The station house is the second in Queens to receive landmark status. The first, Fire Engine Company 289, Ladder Company 138 in Corona, was designated in 1999.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. Since its creation in 1965, the Commission has designated more than 23,000 buildings in all five boroughs, including 1,140 individual landmarks, 106 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 85 historic districts.