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Landmarks Preservation Commission
April 19, 1966, Number 21
LP-0229

STAMBERS STREET
NEW YORK CITY

SAINT MARKS-IN-THE-BOWERY, East 10th Street at 2nd Avenue, Borough of Manhattan.
1799, steeple 1828, portico 1854; Tower by Ithiel Towne.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 466, Lot 26.

On April 12, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Saint Marks-in-the-Bowery and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 11). Five witnesses spoke in favor of designation including the representative of the Church. The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

As seen today, Saint Marks-in-the-Bowery is a church which represents construction over a considerable period of time. The main body of the church with its fieldstone walls and handsomely trimmed round arched windows, belongs to the late Georgian tradition. The steeple is pure Greek Revival and is beautifully although simply detailed. The handsome porch is of cast-iron and belongs to the Italianate tradition of the mid-Nineteenth Century. What is most remarkable, in the case of this church, is the fact that elements of such diverse periods should harmonize so well, achieving a singularly attractive whole.

Historically, this is one of the outstanding churches of New York City, being the oldest site of continuous worship in the City. It is built on the site of Governor Stuyvesant's "Bouwerie" or farm and reputedly covers the exact spot of ground occupied by his "Bouwerie Chapel". Under this church lies the famed Stuyvesant Vault wherein are interred the remains of Peter Stuyvesant, his heirs, and of the English Governor, Sloughter.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that Saint Marks-in-the-Bowery has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, Saint Marks-in-the-Bowery is the oldest site of continuous worship in New York, that architecturally it is a fine, late Georgian church to which additions of later periods have been made with a remarkable degree of harmony, and that it is notable as the burial place of the Dutch Governor, Peter Stuyvesant from whose farm, or "Bouwerie", it takes its name.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 8-A of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark Saint Marks-in-the-Bowery, East 10th Street at 2nd Avenue, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 466, Lot 26, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.

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