



## The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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### **COMMISSION MINTS SECURITIES PRINTING PLANT IN THE BRONX AS NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK**

*Fortress-Like Hunts Point Complex Manufactured Paper Money, Stock Certificates, Bonds,  
Checks and Letters of Credit for Nearly 75 Years During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to designate as a New York City landmark the former American Bank Note Company Printing Plant in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, citing its scale, unique details and rich history. The massive plant, completed in 1911, is one of nearly 200 factories and related sites that the Commission has named as landmarks since 2002, as part of its goal to preserve the City's industrial heritage. Taconic Investment Partners, the current owner of the building, plans to restore and develop the plant for commercial and retail use.



“The plant is notable not only for its commanding presence in the neighborhood and from other vantage points in the Bronx, but also for the sweep of multi-story arcades across the front façade and its nine-story medieval-style tower,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “The owner’s plan to adapt the building for new uses by retail and commercial ventures promises to revitalize the neighborhood and vividly illustrates that preservation and development can go hand in hand.”

Located on a slope at 1201 Lafayette Avenue between Barretto and Tiffany streets, the five-story brick-faced plant was designed by Kirby, Petit & Green, an architecture firm that was responsible for other printing facilities in the United States, including the building that housed the San Francisco Examiner. In addition to the monumental arcades formed by huge, self-supporting brick piers on the front facade, the T-shaped Bronx plant incorporates Gothic-inspired details such as the pointed-arch window openings and crenellated parapet of the central tower.

The American Bank Note Company was founded in 1858, and initially established its headquarters in the Merchants' Exchange Building at 55 Wall St. It was the nation's leading printing and engraving firm in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and manufactured bank notes, postage and revenue stamps, bonds, stock certificates, checks drafts and letters of credit for many governments and institutions. In 1891, the company began producing the American Express Company's new "Travelers Cheques."

*More*

The company closed the Bronx plant in 1986, and moved the operation upstate to Rockland County. The plant later served as home to several different tenants, providing space for a storage company, garment manufacturer, a school and artists' lofts, until Taconic purchased it several weeks ago.

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The Landmarks Preservation Commission is responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to some 24,000 buildings, including 1,182 individual landmarks, 120 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 90 historic districts in all five boroughs.