



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES FOUR INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS

The Windermere (400-406 West 57th Street, Manhattan)

“Everyone has taken notice of this extraordinary building at the corner of West 57th Street and Ninth Avenue,” said Robert B. Tierney. *“Its architectural, cultural and historic significance make it a terrific addition to our collection of landmarks on West 57th Street.”*

The Windermere, constructed in 1880-81 and attributed to architect Theophilus G. Smith, is significant as the oldest-known large apartment complex remaining in an area that was one of Manhattan’s first apartment-house districts. With its exuberant display of textured, corbelled, and polychromatic brickwork, the Windermere complex is a visually compelling, imposing, eclectic, and unified group of three buildings anchoring the southwest corner of Ninth Avenue and West 57th Street. Adding to its significance is the Windermere’s role in the history of women’s housing in New York City. In the late 1890s, in an era in which housing options for single, self-supporting women were relatively limited, the Windermere was recognized as a remarkable home for a substantial population of these so-called “New Women.”



67 Greenwich Street, Robert and Anne Dickey House (Manhattan)

“One of the reasons the Landmarks Commission was created is to protect rare gems like this one,” said Robert B. Tierney.

The very wide (nearly 41 feet) Federal style town house at 67 Greenwich Street was built c. 1811 when this was one of the most fashionable addresses for wealthy merchants in lower Manhattan. As constructed, the house was three-and-a-half stories with a high peaked roof and featured Flemish bond brickwork, splayed stone lintels with keystones on the flat four-bay front facade, and an elliptical bow on three of the five bays of the rear (garden) facade, which also had splayed stone lintels. This house is the only survivor among Federal style town houses in Manhattan that has a bowed facade, a popular feature of the day; most of the similar neighboring houses were demolished for the construction of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. Furthermore, the Dickey House is one of the very few surviving and significantly intact houses of the Federal period and style located south of Chambers Street, the oldest section of New York City.



Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch (89-01 Queens Boulevard, Queens)

“This building stands out because of its unique design and unusual siting on Queens Boulevard,” said Robert B. Tierney. *“I am proud to designate another individual landmark in Queens.”*

Among the many structures that line Queens Boulevard, the former Jamaica Savings Bank is one of the most memorable. Located on a diamond-shaped parcel in Elmhurst, close to the Long Island Expressway, it was built in 1966-68. The bank was celebrating its centennial in 1966 and William F. Cann Company, part of the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, based in St. Louis, was hired to design a modern-style branch that would attract and serve depositors.



A bold expression of mid-twentieth century engineering, the form recalls the work of Eduardo Catalano, Felix Candela, and Eero Saarinen. To create this distinctive form, called a hyperbolic paraboloid, the architect used reinforced concrete, a material known for its tensile strength and plasticity. Supported by concrete piers, the copper-clad roof stretches for 116 feet, reaching a height of 43 feet where Queens Boulevard and 56th Avenue intersect. This design solution had practical and symbolic advantages. Not only did it produce a column-free interior, but the striking silhouette allowed the new branch to stand out from its neighbors. Today, the building continues to serve as a bank branch and remains a distinctive example of a mid-twentieth century modern commercial structure in New York City.

John De Groot House (1674 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island)

“Because of the remarkable stewardship of the owner, and now because of our actions today, all New Yorkers can continue to enjoy this beautiful Second Empire style house on Staten Island,” said Robert B. Tierney.

Constructed c.1870, the John De Groot House is one of the few remaining examples of the grand homes that once lined the south side of Richmond Terrace in West Brighton and recalls the period when Richmond Terrace was the most prestigious residential streets in West Brighton. John De Groot, the builder of this house, worked for over fifty years for the nearby New York Dyeing and Printing Establishment, a textile dyeing business that was the first and one of the most important early industrial concerns on the island.



A fine example of the Second Empire Style, the house retains its historic form and most of its historic detailing. Notable features, typical of the Second Empire style, include the floor length parlor windows and double-door entry, heavy molded cornices and scrolled brackets, and the convex mansard roof that still retains its hexagonal slate shingles and gabled dormers. Convex mansards were less frequently employed than concave or straight sided mansards, and have not survived in great numbers, making this an unusual survivor.