

265 HENRY STREET BUILDING (a part of the Henry Street Settlement), Borough of Manhattan. 1827; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 287, Lot 8 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 265 Henry Street Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Calendar No. 6). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Three speakers, including a representative of the owner, spoke in favor of the designation of the buildings of the Henry Street Settlement. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This handsome Federal three-story town house with basement retains much of its original appearance, including its original doorway and iron railing in front. The building is a good example of Federal architecture. Its fine doorway is complete with leaded glass sidelights and transom. The door frame with its Ionic colonnettes supports a wood transom-bar embellished with handsome moldings. This building is the central one of three houses which form the famous Henry Street Settlement founded by Lillian Wald in 1893. Pride in these buildings resulted in restoration work carried on in 1964 in lieu of razing them and rebuilding on the site.

This building is of great architectural importance as one of the few Federal town houses retaining to a large extent its original appearance. As a part of the Henry Street Settlement, it has been of outstanding service to the neighborhood for over seventy years.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the 265 Henry Street Building 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, the 265 Henry Street Building, a part of the Henry Street Settlement, is a fine example of Federal architecture, that it displays handsome details and that the building is a part of the great and historic tradition of neighborhood service initiated by Lillian Wald in 1893.

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 the 265 Henry Street Building, Borough of Manhattan, and designates as its related Landmark Site that part of Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 287, Lot 8 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.