ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, St. Patrick's Place, Staten Island. Built 1862.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 4438, Lot 61.

On October 11, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of St. Patrick's Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 18). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation, and two statements were filed in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The Rt. Rev. Monsignor Patrick A. Gallagher of St. Patrick's Church has indicated his approval of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

With its sharply defined, expressive outline and its good proportions, this appealing Church is a fine example of the early phase of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. Built in 1862 and bordering on historic Richmondtown, its pleasing appearance is not derived from any elaborate design, but rather from its structural projections and from the interesting play of light and shadows which these forms make on the surface of the plain, brick walls.

The centrally located tower projects out from the plane of the facade, and each flanking wall contains a well proportioned round-arched, stained glass window. In the base of the tower, the slightly recessed front entrance is enframed by a graceful arch. The arched transom of the door has the same narrow vertical boarding which was used in the construction of the handsome doors. White painted brick walls provide a superb backdrop for this dark brown doorway and the large, handsome Nineteenth Century wrought-iron lamps which flank the entrance. Above the doorway are a pair of slender, round-arched stained glass windows, surmounted by a blind oculus all contained within a sunken panel in the brickwork.

The corners of the front elevation are reinforced by square buttresses, indented in the upper area with blind niches. At the roof line, the steeply pitched gable is strengthened by a stepped arched corbel in itself a decorative feature. This same motif is repeated again as a horizontal band defining the base of the belfry. A pair of round-arched louvered openings in each side of the square belfry conceals the bells. The slender polygonal-shaped spire capped by a cross crowns the tower.

The first masses to be offered in the parish of Saint Patrick's were conducted in a small frame structure located on Center Street in the Richmondtown community. On January 7, 1862, Father Berry of Saint Joseph's Church, Rossville, Staten Island, purchased the present site of the Church. The cornerstone was laid on March 17, 1862. The Church measures seventy-one feet by forty feet and can accommodate approximately four hundred people. It has remained relatively unaltered since the date of its construction.

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 St. Patrick's Church has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural character- istics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, Saint Patrick's Church is an excellent example of the early phase of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture, that it is a fine example of brick construction, extremely dignified in appearance and that it stands as a memorial to the missionaries of the church who established Catholicism on Staten Island.

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 St. Patrick's Church, St. Patrick's Place, Staten Island and designates Tax Map Block 4438, Lot 61, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.