

5910 AMBOY ROAD, Borough of Richmond.

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond Tax Map Block 6724, Lot 25.

On November 27, 1973 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of 5910 Amboy Road and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 12). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The owner has indicated his support of the proposed designation of his building.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This simple frame house, built in the Greek Revival style, was erected as a farm house shortly after Abraham J. Wood acquired the land from Joseph Sprague in September of 1840. It is situated on a low, grassy knoll set back from Amboy Road which is one of the oldest roads on the Island, having been laid out in May of 1709. By the mid-18th century, it had become one of the major routes between New York City and Philadelphia for the stages forced to bypass the Jersey Meadows.

This handsome house is composed of three sections--a central portion, three windows wide and one-and-a-half stories high, with two, "stepped-down", flanking wings that are two windows wide. All three sections are sided with wood clapboards. The porch in front of the central unit of the house has four, square, panelled columns with molded capitals that support a projecting roof decorated with dentils. The porch is visually tied to the house by two, square engaged pilasters that flank the ground floor of the main section. The simplicity of the treatment of the six-over-six windows contrasts with the more sophisticated, yet plain enframing of the doorway that still retains its original small-paned transom and sidelights. Triple-paned low windows pierce the dentilled fascia board at the attic level of the central section of the house.

The low silhouette of the building, located on elevated ground, presents a pleasing profile that enhances the intimate domestic character of this charming house.

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 5910 Amboy Road 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, 5910 Amboy Road is a handsome example of Greek Revival domestic architecture, that it is pleasantly situated on a low knoll and set back from Amboy Road, and that it is one of the City's few remaining farmhouses and a charming reminder of Staten Island's rural past.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 63 of the Character 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 5910 Amboy Road, Borough of Richmond and designates Tax Map Block 6724, Lot 25, Borough of Richmond, as its Landmark Site.