



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

March 10, 2010/Calendar No. 12

N 100221 HKQ

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated January 21, 2010, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of Public School 66 located at 85-11 102nd Street (Block 9183, Lot 1) by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on January 12, 2010 (List No. 425 LP No. 2317), Borough of Queens, Community District 9.

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of any designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whether of a historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements and any plans for the development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

On January 12, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated Public School (P.S.) 66 at 85-11 102nd Street (Block 9183, Lot 1) as a city landmark.

P.S. 66 (formerly the Brooklyn Hills School, then the Oxford School, now the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School) was originally constructed in 1898-9 when Richmond Hill was transitioning from a rural farming community into a vibrant residential neighborhood. It was one of three identical schools (two now demolished) that were constructed in anticipation of an influx of residents into the area because of transportation improvements, the subdivision of farmlands into residential lots, and the consolidation of Queens with Greater New York City that same year.

Harry S. Chambers, Superintendent of School Buildings for the Union Free School District No. 7 of the town of Jamaica, Queens, is credited with the design of the original school building. C.B.J. Snyder, Superintendent of School Buildings for the New York City Board of Education from 1890 to 1923, is credited with the 1905-6 addition. The two-and-a-half and three-story building with its six-story tower is Victorian Eclectic in style. The Romanesque Revival style is present in the prominent round arches, a flared base, and tower giving the building a fortress-like appearance. The Queen Anne style is present in the large entablatures featuring elaborate rinceaux, the gabled dormers, and the steeply pitched roofs of the addition.

P.S. 66 continues in its original function as a public school and remains one of Queens' most distinctive school structures. P.S. 66 was renamed the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in honor of the former First Lady's passion for literacy and historic preservation.

The landmark site is located in an R4A zoning district. Pursuant to Section 74-79, transfer of development rights is not permitted for landmark sites located in R4A districts. All landmark buildings or buildings within Historic Districts are eligible to apply for use and bulk waivers pursuant to Section 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution. The Commission notes that since this landmark is city-owned, the Landmarks Preservation Commission would issue an advisory report rather than a permit for any proposed alteration to the building. There are no projected public improvements or plans for development, growth, improvement, or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark building.

The subject landmark designation does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark building.

AMANDA M. BURDEN, FAICP, Chair

KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq., Vice Chairman

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ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, BETTY Y. CHEN, RICHARD W. EADDY,

ANNA HAYES LEVIN, SHIRLEY A. MCRAE, KAREN A. PHILLIPS, Commissioners