Landmarks Preservation Commission
June 28, 2005, Designation List 365
LP-2173

JAMAICA SAVINGS BANK, ELMHURST BRANCH, 89-01 Queens Boulevard (aka 89-01 to 89-11 Queens Boulevard and 89-06 56th Avenue). Built 1966-68; William F. Cann Company and the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, architects.

Landmark Site: Consisting of a portion of the Queen Borough Tax Map Block 1845, Lot 1, on which the building is located and extending out from the perimeter of the roof to the closer of (1) the lot line, or (2) a line running 10 feet from, and parallel with, the perimeter of the roof.

On March 15, 2005 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the former Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch, and the proposed designation of the related landmark site. Two representatives of the owner, New Ba Property LLC, testified in opposition to designation. Ten persons testified in support of designation, including representatives of Docommo, the Historic Districts Council, Landmark West, the Modern Architecture Working Group, and the Municipal Arts Society. At the continued hearing, on May 17, 2005, four representatives of the owner spoke in opposition to designation.

Summary

Of various structures that line Queens Boulevard, the Jamaica Savings Bank is one of the most unique and memorable. Located at the corner of 56th Avenue in Elmhurst, close to the Long Island Expressway, it was built between 1966 and 1968. The bank was celebrating its centennial in 1966 and the William F. Cann Company, part of the Bank Building & Equipment Corporation of America, was commissioned to design a small branch that would not be overshadowed by neighboring commercial structures. After the Second World War, bank designers experimented with new forms and materials, setting aside the classical sources that long dominated the field. The Bank Building Corporation, which designed and built hundreds of branch offices in the United States, helped introduce modern aesthetics into the banking mainstream. The Jamaica Savings Bank is a bold expression of mid-20th century engineering, recalling the work of such architects as Eduardo Catalano, Felix Candela, and Eero Saarinen. To create this eye-catching form, called a hyperbolic paraboloid, the architects used reinforced concrete, a material known for its remarkable tensile strength and plasticity. Supported by a pair of concrete piers, the copper-clad roof extends 116 feet, reaching a height of 43 feet above the entrance. This solution had both practical and symbolic advantages; enhancing the structure's visibility and creating a column-free interior. Today, a branch of Northfork Bank, this distinctive example of mid-20th century modern bank architecture is well preserved and continues to serve its original function.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Jamaica Savings Bank[1]

The Jamaica Savings Bank celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1966 – the same year that construction began on the Elmhurst branch. Founded in the basement of the County Clerk's Office (later the Register's office) in Jamaica and opened on July 14, 1866, it grew to become one of the most important savings banks in Queens. In contrast to commercial banks that work with businesses, it was established to serve the citizens of Jamaica and to support local development. Among the nineteen charter trustees was John Alsop King, former governor of New York State and eldest son of Rufus King, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The bank attracted more than six hundred accounts and in 1874 purchased a two-and-a-half-story frame structure on Jamaica Avenue, near 161st Street. In 1897 this modest building was moved to the rear of the site and a steel-framed limestone-fronted headquarters, designed by Hough & Deuell, was erected in its place. A rare example of the Beaux-Arts style in Queens, this four-story structure conveyed the kind of monumentality that is often associated with private social clubs and civic institutions. It signaled the importance of Jamaica as a commercial center and by the 1920s seven banks had opened in the vicinity. In 1964 the main office of the Jamaica Savings Bank moved across the street to a new structure at the corner of Herriman Avenue.[2]

During the mid-twentieth century the Jamaica Savings Bank expanded several times, merging with the Queensboro Savings Bank in 1934, the Savings Bank of Central Queens in 1937, and the Rockaway Savings Bank in 1957. When construction of the Elmhurst branch began in 1966, the bank's president was John Adikes.[3] His son, Park T. Adikes, was appointed his successor in 1967. When the Jamaica Savings Bank became part of North Fork Bancorp in 1999, it had assets of $1.6 billion and thirteen branches in Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island.[4]

History of Elmhurst and Queens Boulevard

Queens Boulevard is one of the busiest traffic arteries in New York City. Eight miles long and two hundred feet wide, it follows the route of two earlier roads: Thomson Avenue, which connected Long Island City to Elmhurst, and Hoffman Boulevard, which continued east toward Jamaica.

Elmhurst is situated in northwestern Queens, between Sunnyside Gardens and Forest Hills. Large-scale residential development began in 1896 when the Cord Meyer Development Company began operating in Newtown. In an effort to disassociate the new community of single-family houses from industrial activity on Newtown Creek, it was renamed Elmhurst, for the "large number of stately elms" that once grew in the area.[5] Construction of the Queensborough Bridge (1901-9, a designated New York City Landmark) and the beginning of trolley service along Queens Boulevard in 1913, spurred further development, including the communities known as Elmhurst Square, Elmhurst South, Elmhurst Heights, and New Elmhurst. To serve the growing population, Newtown High School experienced several building campaigns, including an expansion in 1898-1900 and a new building (C. B. J. Snyder, a designated New York City Landmark) in 1920-21, with an addition in 1930-31. Growth continued during the 1930s with the opening of the Independent (IND) subway. Service from Manhattan along Queens Boulevard – and to the Woodhaven Boulevard station near where the bank is located – began in December 1936.

Queens continued to grow after the Second World War. The largest new residential development was LeFrak City, constructed between 1960 and 1968. Situated alongside the Long Island Expressway, between the future site of the Elmhurst branch and the World's Fair grounds (now Flushing Meadow Park), the 40-acre-complex contained twenty 18-story apartment buildings. At the time it was described as "the largest apartment house development in the world built with private, conventional financing and without some kind of government assistance."[6] Though plans to convert much of Queens Boulevard into a sunken expressway did not proceed, the constant flow of commuter traffic made the neighboring area an ideal location for retail activity, especially where the ten lane artery intersects with the Long Island Expressway. Two department stores opened substantial branches -- Alexander's (1957) at Queens Boulevard and 63rd Road, and Macy's (1963-65) on a five-acre site

bounded by Queens Boulevard, Justice Avenue, 55th and 56th Avenues. Though the latter site was relatively small and had an irregular shape, the location was advantageous. Not only was it well served by all forms of transit, but Macy's estimated that 725,000 potential customers lived within a three-mile radius.[7]

Site and Construction

In November 1963 the Jamaica Savings Bank was granted permission from the State Banking Board to open a branch in Elmhurst.[8] The purchase of the site was finalized in December 1963. Located on the north side of Queens Boulevard, at the corner of 56th Avenue, it was directly across from the new department store. The plot, however, had an unusual shape. It had no right angled corners and the sides measure 130, 108, 113 and 121 feet. Following approval by the New York City Department of Buildings in June 1966 (NB 723-66), work on the eighty-two by eighty-two-foot fireproof structure began in July 1966 and was completed in May 1968. Schumacher & Forelle, of Great Neck, New York, served as builder. The estimated cost of construction was $350,000.

Bank Design in the Twentieth Century

Prior to the 1930, most American banks were designed in the classical style. To attract depositors, owners and trustees favored traditional architectural imagery – large, often free-standing, stone structures in the classical style that signaled financial stability and integrity. These structures, whether located in small towns or large cities, projected a strong civic presence and many became centerpieces in their communities. The Hanover Bank (1850-52, a designated New York City Landmark), located opposite Hanover Square in lower Manhattan, is one of the oldest bank buildings in New York City. Designed in the Italianate style, it has a symmetrical brownstone front that was modeled on Italian Renaissance sources. Many important examples were constructed in busy commercial hubs, within walking distance of residential neighborhoods, such as: the Williamsburgh Savings Bank (1870-75) at 175 Broadway in Williamsburg, the Bowery Savings Bank (1893-95) at the corner of Grand Street in Manhattan, the Dime Savings Bank (1906-8) on Dekalb Avenue in downtown Brooklyn, and the Central Savings Bank (1926-28) at 2100-08 Broadway on the Upper West Side. All of these grandly-scaled edifices are designated New York City Landmarks, as well as Interiors.

In the late 1920s, bank designs began to display a wider range of stylistic influences. In addition to adopting Byzantine elements, architects began to adopt forms associated with the Art Deco Style. Notable examples include the former East River Savings Bank (Walker & Gillette, 1931-34) at 26 Cortlandt Street in Manhattan, and the Dollar Savings Bank (1932-33, a designated New York City Landmark and interior) on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx. Often described as "Modern Classical" or "stripped" classical, these grandly-scaled structures look forward to the minimalist forms that would dominate the post-World War II era.

In Queens, similar architectural trends prevailed. One of the earliest surviving examples is the 1897-98 headquarters of the Jamaica Savings Bank. Designed in the Beaux Arts style, the limestone façade features bull's eye windows and handsome classical details. During the 1920s and 1930s many new branches opened in the borough, especially along the routes of the IRT and IND subways. In Forest Hills, the Ridgewood Savings Bank (a designated New York City Landmark) was constructed in the modern classical style during 1939-40.[9] Located on a triangular lot, it stood next to a recently-opened subway stop and was the bank's first branch office.

Fueled by the development of eastern Queens and suburban Long Island, a growing number of banks were established along Queens Boulevard during the 1950s and 1960s. One of the first examples in the region to be built with industrial materials was the Metropolitan Industrial Bank (1950-52) at Queens Boulevard and 66th Road in Forest Hills. Designed by Philip Birnbaum, this corner building featured a triple-height banking hall with curved walls of glass and polished metal fins.[10]

Construction of the Macy's store attracted several new bank offices to Elmhurst. Each one was a free-standing structure distinguished by its striking sculptural shape. The earliest was the First National City Bank, completed in c. 1966. Like Macy's, it was designed by Skidmore, Owings &

Merrill and had a circular plan. Advertisements cleverly boasted that: "There's nothing square about our branches in Queens . . . In short, they're with it."[11] Federation Bank & Trust Company erected an enlarged office in a similar spirit at 85th Street in 1966. Designed by the architects Evans & Delehanty, the circular plan "was influenced by the Bank's corner location and its requirement that the entrance be at the corner of Queens Boulevard and Broadway."[12]

William F. Cann

The 1960s was a period of expansion for the Jamaica Savings Bank. On Jamaica Avenue, a new five-story headquarters was planned and completed in April 1964. Designed by Gannett Herwig (1897-1966) of LaPierre, Litchfield & Partners, it stood in sharp contrast to the bank's earlier Beaux-Arts-style headquarters.[13] Faced in white brick, stainless steel, and blue mosaics imported from Italy, this striking structure had a concave entrance and was designed as "tangible proof" of the bank's commitment to the area. Many innovative features were incorporated into the design, including an "air curtain" door, snow melting equipment embedded in the pavement, and, in full view of depositors, the vault and safe deposit boxes. Praised by the *Long Island Press* for having an "open, airy look," it generated six thousand new accounts the week it opened.

A similar approach was adopted for the Elmhurst branch. The value of a strikingly modern structure was clearly important and William Franklin Cann (1916-1983), of the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, was selected to oversee the project. Founded in 1917, the firm was based in St. Louis, Missouri. As specialists in the field, it addressed all aspects of construction, from aesthetics to bank security. Cann, who completed his architectural training at Washington University in 1941, joined the BB & EC as a draftsman in 1948. Appointed president of the firm in the mid-1960s, he reported in 1964 that "we detect a real boom in construction for financial institutions and have every reason to be optimistic about the immediate future."[14] Among the hundred or more architects employed at the headquarters, the best known was W. A. Sarmiento, who worked with the BB & EC from 1950 to 1965.

Cann received a license to practice in New York State in 1957. He continued to live in St. Louis, but the company also maintained a small office with several architects and sales representatives at 342 Madison Avenue in Manhattan. The office designed at least four banks in New York City, including branches of the Brooklyn Savings Bank (1958), the Bank for Savings (1962), and the Franklin Society Federal Savings and Loan Association (1968).

After twenty eight years with the firm, Cann retired in 1976. Named vice chairman, he continued to serve as a consultant. The BB & EC closed in the late 1980s and was subsequently reorganized as New Ground, a company devoted to "planning, design, building and implementation of branded retail and operations environments for financial institutions."[15]

Design

Elmhurst was new territory for the Jamaica Savings Bank. Justus J. Vries, vice president of the BB & EC, said the design was dictated by two factors: the "odd shape of the property" and the need to "attract people and yet not be dwarfed by Macy's."[16] Whereas Skidmore, Owings & Merrill designed the First National City branch to fit snugly beside the department store, the Jamaica Savings Bank was given a much more unusual shape. In contrast to its flat-roofed neighbors, the building is shaped like an elongated saddle, called a hyperbolic paraboloid, that rises to a point at either end. Silhouetted against Macy's, it suggests a bird in flight or a butterfly. Mario Salvadori, author of *Why Buildings Stand Up*, wrote that this type of structure is "universally admired aesthetically" and that the "message is always one of beauty."[17]

The planning of the Elmhurst branch coincided with the 1964-65 New York World's Fair. Many of the most interesting pavilions were built by large corporations who commissioned striking sculptural forms to help distinguish one structure from the next. A savvy combination of architectural spectacle and self-promotion, these dramatically-engineered structures featured tilted facades, outsized domes, and gravity-defying cantilevers. Though Cann's design does not appear to have been modeled after a particular pavilion at the fair, he and the bank officers certainly understood the value of novel architectural forms.

To create this distinctive form, the architects used a thin shell of reinforced concrete. Architectural historian Carl W. Condit wrote in 1961 that this technique offered the "most economical mode of construction, the greatest variety of forms, and the widest range of dimensions."[18] Though concrete has a long history dating back to the Roman Empire, the use of iron elements as reinforcement began in the mid-nineteenth century in France and England. Concrete played an important role in early twentieth century industrial and commercial buildings throughout New York City, in such buildings as the Austin Nichols Warehouse (1913-15) and the Army Supply Terminal (1918), both designed by Cass Gilbert. These techniques could be spectacularly efficient; not only were costs significantly reduced, but these large post-and-lintel complexes could be built in remarkably short periods of time.

More sculptural forms were introduced in Europe during the 1920s and 1930s, with the development of multi-vault concrete shells and pre-stressed concrete. These techniques were typically used to enclose large spaces, particularly structures built for industrial use, including airplane hangars and exposition halls. To create thin shells of maximum rigidity, the French architect Eugene Freyssinet experimented with warped and folded shapes. According to Condit, shells of double curvature, such as the hyperbolic paraboloid, have great advantages. Because all elements fall into straight lines, the formwork is simpler and less expensive to construct. These factors were particularly important in the 1950s; not only was steel expensive but many architects were eager to explore techniques that would allow them to create less conventional forms. Most examples in New York City were located outside Manhattan, including: Begrisch Hall (Marcel Breuer, 1956-61, a designated New York City Landmark) in the Bronx, Trans World Airlines Flight Center at Kennedy Airport (Eero Saarinen, 1956-62, a designated New York City Landmark and Interior) in Queens, and the 175th Street Bus Terminal (Pier Luigi Nervi, 1963) in Manhattan.

Cann was certainly familiar with these techniques. Commissioned to design a prototype gatehouse for the new Howard Johnson's motel chain in 1958, he designed a small structure with a folded concrete shell anchored by corner piers. Clad with the restaurant's signature orange-colored tiles, the roof comes to a peak on all four sides. Such elements anticipate his more dramatic design for the Jamaica Savings Bank, and his son, William F. Cann, Jr., remembered that he was particularly proud of the motel project.[19]

Near the center of the building, close to each sidewalk, are two 6 ½ foot-tall concrete piers. As in Cann's earlier design, these elements serve dual purposes: to support the roof, and to anchor the steel rods that may have been "pre-stressed" to increase the strength of the concrete shell. The roof and cornice is covered with green copper panels. Seams form linear patterns and the raised sections were intended to help drain water away from the sidewalk. Furthermore, the use of contrasting color enhanced the building's silhouette and increased visibility.

Viewed from the west, the bank also resembles a crystal pyramid. At the corner of Queens Boulevard and 56th Avenue, the twin facades rise to a height of forty-three feet. While split-faced marble was used in areas behind the teller's windows, the street facades were almost entirely glazed, faced in quarter-inch-thick glass that was described as a "heat and glare resistant."[20] Chosen for practical and symbolic reasons, the tinted bronze glass both filters afternoon light and gives the branch an open and welcoming appearance.

Subsequent History

On March 25, 1968 the Elmhurst branch opened. To identify the new bank, especially to motorists, a tall vertical sign was installed on Queens Boulevard, at the east end of the parking lot. It consisted of a tall cylinder onto which letters, spelling out the bank's name, were attached. Each façade had a single entrance that led to the column-free banking hall and tellers windows. The basement, reached by stairs, was devoted to safe deposit vaults and staff areas.

Construction of the building attracted attention from the *New York Times*, including a substantial article titled: "Deposits in Savings Bank Will Be Protected Under Concrete Wings."[21] The author claimed that drivers on Queens Boulevard were "doing double-takes" and that the unfinished building resembled something from "outer space." In response, an unidentified bank official "conceded that the bank did not ordinarily go in for such free-form construction" but that the site

justified the dramatic shape. In the *Island Star Journa*l, a spokesman for the bank boasted: "It's the most unusual bank building ever seen."[22]

The building committee of the Queens Chamber of Commerce awarded the branch a bronze plaque for "outstanding excellence" in December 1968. In the decade that followed, the Jamaica Savings Bank prospered and grew, becoming the eighteenth largest savings bank in New York City. Whereas most banks in the metropolitan area lost money during the 1970s, it remained solvent. In an article describing the Jamaica Savings Bank's successful business strategy, a photograph of the Elmhurst branch was accompanied by the headline: "For Jamaica Savings, Different Is Better."[23]

The Elmhurst branch has been included two important reference works devoted to New York City architecture. *New York 1960*, published in 1995, described the bank as "a daring if improbable design" and the fourth edition of the *AIA Guide to New York City* (2000) commented: "Scarcely the Bilbao Guggenheim of Queens Boulevard, but a dynamic form concerned as much with image as function. Too tiny for such a spirited form."[24]

In 1990 the Jamaica Savings Bank was converted from a privately-owned mutual savings bank to a stock savings bank in which shares were sold to the general public. North Fork Bancorp acquired the eleven branches of the Jamaica Savings Bank in 1999.[25] Since this time, aside from alterations to the signage, there have been relatively few changes to the building.

Description

Today a branch of Northfork Bank, the former Jamaica Savings Bank stands on a diamond-shaped parcel, located on the north side of Queens Boulevard at the intersection of 56th Avenue. The footprint of the approximately 82 by 82 foot building occupies the western half of the parcel, where the streets meet, and the rest of the parcel is used as a parking lot. Viewed from the side, the **parabolic roof** is saddle-shaped, rising from squat concrete piers that are located adjacent to the sidewalk behind low metal fences. Measuring 116 feet long and 67 feet wide, at the pinnacle, the roof reaches a height of 43 feet. Each pier is enclosed behind by a low non-historic metal fence. Clad in copper panels, parallel seams form two linear patterns that are visible across the roof and cornice. Near the edge, the surface is raised, allowing water to drain toward the center. In addition, ice guards, as well as elements that once held these rods, are visible in various locations. The **cornice** comes to point where the Queens Boulevard and 56th Avenue elevations meet. At the rear of the building, the angle is less severe and the cornice projects out approximately 15 feet. Viewed from the sidewalk or parking lot, the concrete is visible underneath.

The **main elevations** are faced with bronze plate glass windows. At the base, near the center of each façade is a single non-historic metal-framed entry door. In a small number of places, glass has been replaced with black metal panels. Thin vertical strips of split-faced white marble clad the base along part of 56th Avenue, and in the rear, facing the parking lot. Both facades are divided horizontally into two sections by a non-historic metal sign on which "NorthFork Bank" appears in raised white letters, as well as "24 ATM." At present, the glass panels are framed with silver and bronze mullions. Though not historic, this arrangement reflects the spirit of the original glazing, which consisted of fewer and taller glass panels. Due to the complimentary color, the bronze mullions recede, giving greater vertical emphasis.

On Queens Boulevard, the glass panels and silver mullions continue behind the pier until it meets the base of the rear façade, which is faced with rectangular panels incorporating strips of white marble. Toward the rear of the building, the height of the clerestory windows increases. The base of each window is covered with black metal panels. Where the rear cornice comes to a point the windows are tallest and the white marble panels are interrupted by a non-historic metal door. The lighting fixture above the door is also non-historic. West of the door and running alongside the base of the building, toward 56th Avenue, is a non-historic metal guard rail.

Report researched and written by
Matthew A. Postal
Research Department

NOTES

[1] This section is based on "(Former) Jamaica Savings Bank," Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1992. This designation was denied by the City Council.

[2] In 1964 the building at 161-02 closed and has remained vacant for forty years. It has been designated a landmark twice, in November 1974 and May 1992. On both occasions the designation was denied, first by the Board of Estimate, and later, by the City Council.

[3] "John Adikes, 75, of Savings Bank," *New York Times*, July 3, 1970, 25.

[4] Branches were located in Jamaica, Queens Village, Jackson Heights, Rockaway Park, Fresh Meadows, and Far Rockaway. "North Fork to Buy JSB Financial for $540.6 million," *Wall Street Journal*, August 17, 1999, c15.

[5] "How Elmhurst Got It's Name Told By Frederick Reiner," *Queens Ledger*, March 27, 142.

[6] "Big Development Due in Elmhurst," *New York Times*, May 11, 1960, 63.

[7] Queens Boulevard remains an important retail hub. There are currently three shopping centers near the intersection with the Long Island Expressway: Queen's Place (Macy's and J.C. Penney), Queen's Center Mall (Target, etc.), and Sears Center (formerly Alexander's). The Queens Center Mall (c. 1972) was constructed on the former site of the Fairyland amusement park. See "Circular Building Adding 2 Floors and Big Retailers," *New York Times*, January 14, 2001, RE11; "Irresistibly Rational: Macy's Queens, 1965," *Docomomo newsletter*, Summer 2004, 5.

[8] "Bank Board OKs Branch, Nixes Second," *Long Island Star Journal*, November 9, 1963.

[9] See Landmarks Preservation Commission, "Ridgewood Savings Bank, Forest Hills Branch" designation report by Virginia Kurshan (New York: City of New York, 2000).

[10] Birnbaum's design was given a "first prize award for excellence of design and civic value" from the Queens Chamber of Commerce in December 1952. The first glass bank in Manhattan was the Manufacturer's Trust Company branch at 510 Fifth Avenue (a designated New York City Landmark). Designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, it was completed in 1954.

[11] Advertisement in *QueensBorough* (Queens Chamber of Commerce, December 1968) in the collection of Long Island Division, Queens Public Library.

[12] In December 1966, the Queen Boulevard branch received a "First Prize Award" from the Queens Chamber of Commerce. The building was demolished in 2004. Also see advertisement in *Long Island Daily Press*, May 25, 1966.

[13] "Gannett Herwig, 69, Architect, is Dead," *New York Times*, April 21, 1966, 39. Herwig also designed the Jamaica Savings Bank on 82nd Street in Jackson Heights. Also see "Jamaica Savings' New Building Will Be Completed Next Year," *Long Island Daily Press*, January 15, 1962; "New Jamaica Savings Bank To Open in a Few Months," *Long Island Daily Press*, January 13, 1964; and "New Bank Building Has That Bright, Airy Look," *Long Island Daily Press*, April 4, 1964.

[14] "Fiscal '64 Net of Bank Building & Equipment Seen Matching '63 Level," *Wall Street Journal*, August 24, 1964, 14.

[15] "Bank Building Names Smith Chairman, Weis President," *Wall Street Journal*, September 3, 1976, 14.

[16] Charles Friedman, "Deposits in Bank Will Be Protected Under Concrete Wings," *New York* Times, June 11, 1967, 332.

[17] Mario Salvadori, *Why Buildings Stand Up* (McGraw-Hill, 1982), 299.

[18] Carl W. Condit, *American Building Art: The Twentieth Centur*y (Oxford University Press, 1961), 177.

[19] Telephone conversation with William F. Cann, Jr., May 24, 2005.

[20] "1968 Building Awards," *QueensBorough*, December 1968, 71, 61, 43.

[21] Charles Freedman, "Deposits in Bank."

[22] "Who Says Banks Must Be Square?," *Island Star Journal*, March 14, 1968.

[23] Roberta A. Bennett, "For Jamaica Savings, Different is Better," *New York Times*, December 29, 1981, 1.

[24] Robert A. M. Stern, Thomas Mellins, and David Fishman, *New York 1960* (Monacelli Press, 1995), 996; *AIA Guide to New York City* (4th edition, 2000), 831.

[25] See "Jamaica Savings Bank: Concern Will Convert Itself to Stockholder Ownership," *Wall Street Journal*, May 22, 1990.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch, 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 the Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch, located on Queens Boulevard, is one of the most unique and memorable structures on this busy multi-lane thoroughfare; that construction began in 1966, the year of the bank's centennial; that it was designed by the William F. Cann Company, part of the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, based in St. Louis, Missouri, and that it opened for business in March 1968; that it is shaped like an elongated saddle called a hyperbolic paraboloid; that to create this distinctive form Cann used reinforced concrete and bronze glass, cladding the 116-foot-long roof with copper panels; that the Elmhurst ranch is a bold expression of twentieth century engineering recalling works by Eduardo Catalano, Felix Candela, and Eero Saarinen; and that this unusual design solution created not only a column-free banking hall but a visually-distinctive form that stands out from neighboring structures.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 (formerly Section 534 of Chapter 21) of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch, 89-01 Queens Boulevard (aka 89-01 to 89-11 Queens Boulevard and 89-06 56th Avenue), and designates a portion of a Borough of Queens Tax Block 1845, Lot 1, on which the building is located and extending out from the perimeter of the roof to the closer of (1) the lot line, or (2) a line running 10 feet from, and parallel with, the perimeter of the roof, as its Landmark Site.

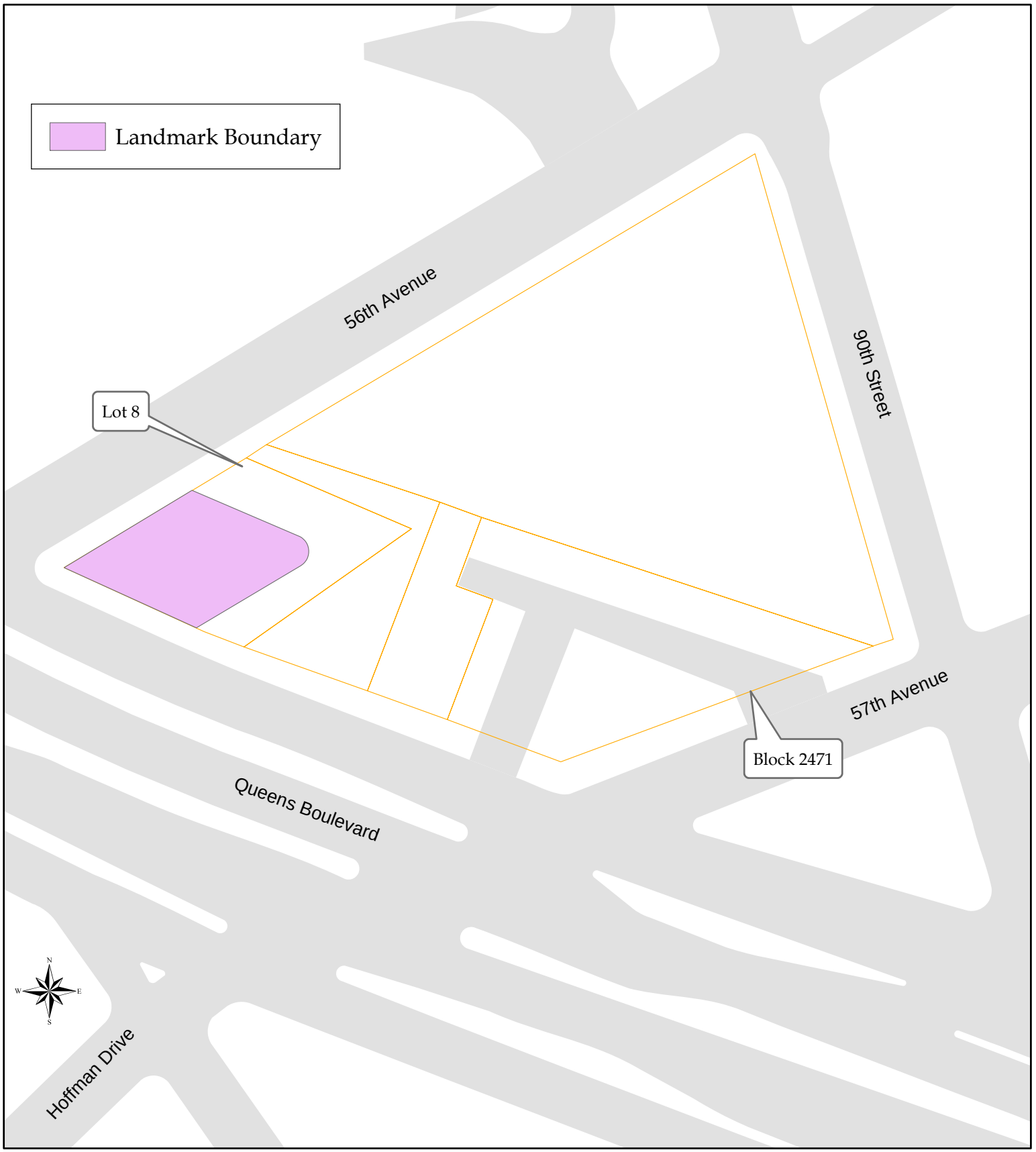
Robert B. Tierney, Chair
Joan Gerner, Roberta Brandes Gratz, Richard Olcott
Jan Pokorny, Elizabeth Ryan, Vicki Match Suna, Pablo E. Vengoecea, Commissioners

Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch
89-01 Queens Boulevard, at 56th Avenue
Photos: Carl Forster

Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch
Rear and façade adjoining Queens Boulevard
Photos: William Neeley and Carl Forster

Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst Branch
Views along 56th Avenue
Photos: Carl Forster

Jamaica Savings Bank, Elmhurst branch
56th Avenue, details
Photos: Carl Forster



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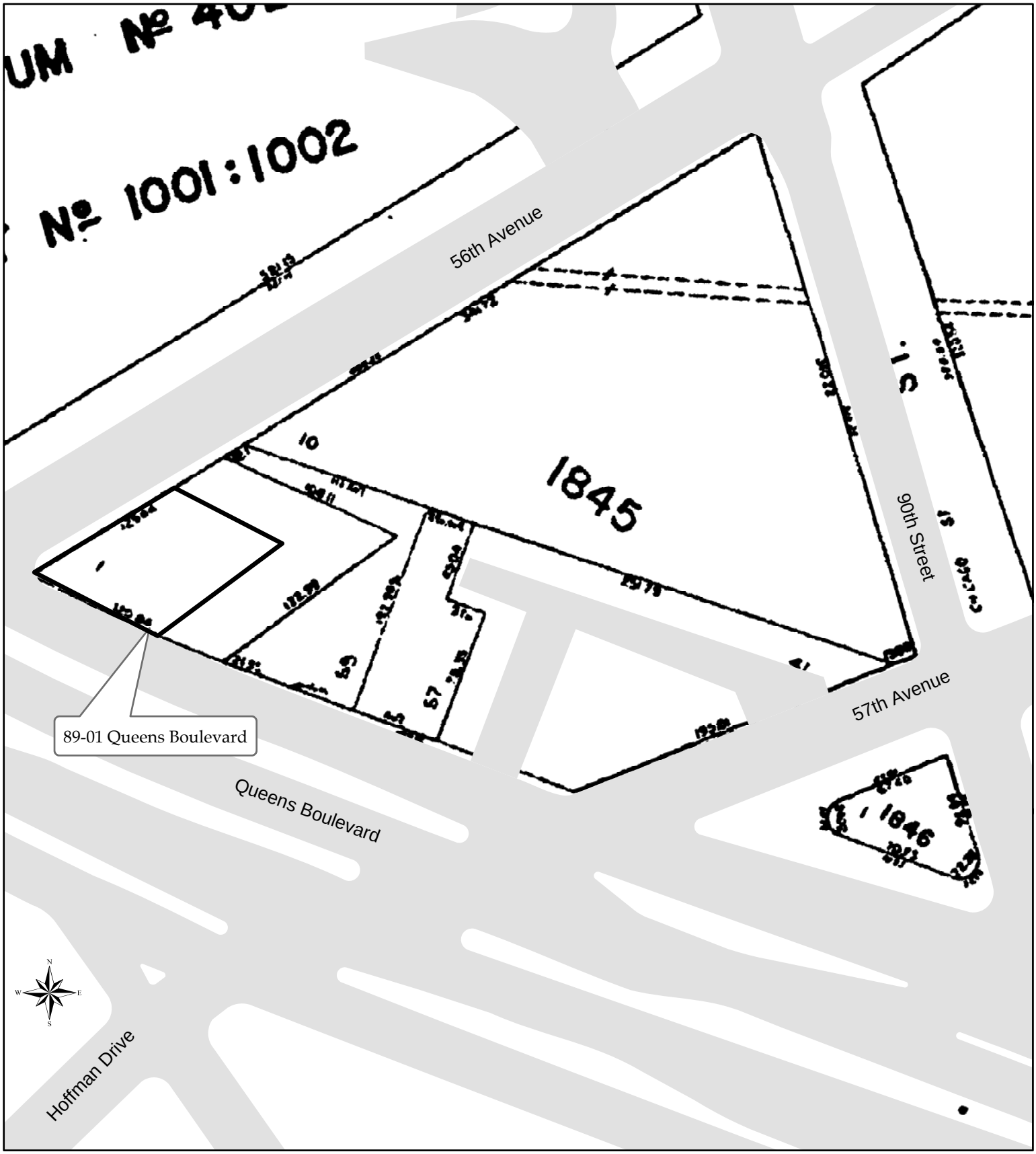
Graphic Source: New York City Department of City Planning, MapPLUTO, Edition 03C, December 2003



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Graphic Source: Sanborn, Building & Property Atlas (2004-5), Book 2, Volume 19, Plate 87