



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

September 4, 2007/Calendar No. 1

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IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated July 6, 2007, from the Executive Director of Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of Crotona Play Center and the Crotona Play Center Bath House (main floor interior) located at Fulton Avenue between East 172nd Street and East 173rd Street, (Block 2941, part of Lot 1), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on July 6, 2007 (Exterior Designation List No. 393/ LP – 2232; Main Floor Interior Designation List No. 393/ LP – 2233), Borough of the Bronx, Community District 3.

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.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated The Crotona Play Center and Bath House interior as a city landmark.

The Crotona Play Center is one of a group of eleven immense outdoor swimming pools opened in the summer of 1936 in a series of grand ceremonies presided over by, then Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses. It was constructed with funds provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and was the only WPA pool located in the Bronx.

The Crotona Play Center is located within Crotona Park, which is bounded by Crotona Park South to the south, Crotona Park North to the north, Crotona Park East to the east and Fulton Avenue to the west. The subject site faces residential uses across Fulton Avenue between East 172nd Street and East 173rd Street.

The landmark designation applies to both the exterior of the bath house, including, but not limited to the swimming and diving pools, terrace site of the former wading pool, retaining walls, fencing and linking pathways, and to main floor interior of the Bath House. The interior of the Crotona Park Bath House consists of the men's and women's locker rooms which are accessed from the entry courtyard. The interiors of these locker rooms are arranged as adjoining mirror-image spaces and are dramatically articulated by a series of arched buttresses. Both locker rooms are used as gymnasiums during the non-swimming months. This structure, like the other public pools, was built primarily of brick and cast stone in the streamlined and curvilinear Art Moderne style. The grounds surrounding the structure were built in similar grand fashion. The rock outcroppings characteristic of Crotona Park further distinguished this site.

The designated landmark building is located within designated parkland. Therefore, Sections 74-79 and 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution are not applicable.

The Commission notes that since the 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.

AMANDA M. BURDEN, AICP Chair
KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq. Vice Chair

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