



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

June 3, 2009 / Calendar No. 5

N 090392HKX

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated April 22nd, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the New York Public Library, Woodstock Branch located at 761 E. 160th Street (Block 2657, Lot 30), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on April 14th, 2009 (List No. 412/LP-2322), Borough of the Bronx, Community District 1.

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 of the subject property, 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 April 14th, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated the New York Public Library, Woodstock Branch, located at 761 E. 160th Street as a city landmark.

The library is located in the Woodstock neighborhood in Community District 1 of the Bronx on 160th street between Forest Ave and Tinton Ave. Land uses around the library include a school located across the street, a church building and its accessory parking lot located on the west and partnership homes on the north and east.

The Woodstock Branch of the New York Public Library opened on February 17, 1914 and is the sixty-first Carnegie branch library built in New York. It is one of the nine Carnegie libraries in the Bronx and one of sixty seven in all the boroughs. It is a three story, three-bay brick structure clad in rusticated limestone. The library's classically inspired style, with its characteristic vertical plan, offset entrance, carved stone ornament, and tall arched first floor windows providing abundant lighting to a simple interior, is characteristic of the urban Carnegie library type. Occupying a modest mid-block site two blocks west of the major north-south thoroughfare of Prospect Avenue, the library presented to the street a simple palazzo-type façade of Indiana limestone and shared brick party walls with its neighboring structures. The building was designed by the firm McKim, Mead and White, which is among the best known and influential of American architecture firms. The classically

inspired style was a hallmark of the firm and also a major characteristic of New York City's Carnegie libraries and other public buildings of the period.

The landmark site is located in an R6 zoning district. With an allowable floor area ratio (FAR) of 2.43, the zoning lot could be developed with approximately 17,618 square feet of floor area. The Woodstock Branch Library contains approximately 13,485 square feet of floor area. Therefore, there is approximately 4,133 square feet of floor area available for transfer.

Pursuant to Section 74-79 of the Zoning Resolution, a landmark building may transfer its unused development rights to a lot contiguous to the zoning lot occupied by the landmark building or one which is across the street and opposite to the zoning lot occupied by the landmark building or in the case of a corner lot, one which fronts on the same street intersection as the lot occupied by the landmark. There are nine potential receiving sites available for the transfer of the landmark's unused floor area.

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, upon application by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

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, FAICP, Chair
KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, ESQ., Vice Chairman
ANGELA M. BATTAGLIA, IRWIN G. CANTOR, P.E.,
ANGELA R. CAVALUZZI, AIA., ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, BETTY Y. CHEN,
MARIA M. DEL TORO, RICHARD W. EADDY,
NATHAN LEVENTHAL, SHIRLEY A. MCRAE, KAREN A. PHILLIPS, Commissioners

RAYANN BESSER, Commissioner, abstained