



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

May 9, 2007/ Calendar No. 17

N 070403 HKK

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated March 19, 2007, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of Laboratory Administration Building, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue (Block 1183, Lot 1 in part), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on March 13, 2007 (Designation List No. 388/LP-2212), Borough of Brooklyn, 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 development, growth, improvement, or renewal of the area involved.

Founded in 1910 and located on the fringes of Prospect Park, Brooklyn Botanic Garden features more than 10,000 different kinds of plants from around the world on its 52 acres of specialty gardens. The Laboratory Administration Building, designed by William Kendall of the renowned architectural firm, McKim, Mead & White, is located within the boundaries of and is an integral part of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The Laboratory Administration Building is considered to be a significant example of the firm's late work. During their collaboration, McKim, Mead & White designed a total of 784 commissions and became the largest and most important architectural office in the country, successfully using Renaissance sources to create new designs that were easily comprehended and uniquely American. Some of the firm's most well-known buildings that are also New York City Landmarks include, amongst others, the Bowery Savings Bank (1893-1895), New York Public Library, Hamilton Grange Branch (1905-1906), and the Brooklyn Museum (1893- 1915).

The Laboratory Administration Building is modeled after small churches in the Lombardy region of

Italy and is constructed in a Greek cross design with a cupola at the center of a symmetrical form. The cupola is faced with terra cotta and has slender rounded-arch windows, each with ten panes. The roof of the cupola is a shingle design, and six finials surround a small obelisk that crowns the cupola. This Tuscan Revival style building is made of concrete and brick, with stucco finish and terra-cotta detailing. The names of 68 renowned botanists are inscribed along a frieze and window tablets of the building.

The designated Landmark building is located within designated parkland. Therefore, Sections 74-711 and 74-79 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
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