

Landmarks Preservation Commission
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LP-0436

ROMANIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS (formerly Mrs. Graham Fair Vanderbilt House), 60 East 93rd Street, Borough of Manhattan. Begun 1930, completed 1931; architect John Russell Pope.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1504, Lot 45.

On November 10, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as Landmark of the Romanian Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 55). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Two witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The Commission has discussed the proposed designation with representatives of the Government which owns the building. The Ambassador has indicated "our awareness about the high artistical and material value of the building the Mission owns and of our readiness to continue to assure the same high level of maintenance for the property."

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This very dignified town house, designed for Mrs. Graham Fair Vanderbilt in 1929, is a fine example of the last of that great series of houses which was built before the depression paralyzed building construction and virtually brought an end to the era of the New York City town house.

Designed in the French classic manner of Louis XV, it reminds us of the small "maison particulier", such as those which are to be seen at Versailles. Built entirely of stone, it is completely symmetrical except for the rusticated arched doorway set back at the right side of the house. The high French windows, three at each floor, are crowned by attractive keystones and protected by ornamental wrought iron railings. The slate Mansard roof, with its simple segmental arched dormers, is surrounded by a stone balustrade.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

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 Romanian Permanent Mission to the United Nations 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, among its important qualities the Romanian Permanent Mission to the United Nations is an outstanding example of the French, classic town house, that it is handsomely rusticated and detailed in stone and that it lends great dignity to the City.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 8-A of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Romanian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 60 East 93rd Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 1504, Lot 45, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.