

CAPTAIN JOHN H. STAFFORD HOUSE

95 PELL PLACE, THE BRONX

BLOCK 5626/LOT 221

BUILT: 1930

ARCHITECT: SEARS, ROEBUCK AND COMPANY

CONTRACTOR: R.E. LLOYD

ORIGINAL OWNER: JOHN H. STAFFORD

STYLE: CRAFTSMAN

SIGNIFICANCE: UNUSUALLY INTACT EXAMPLE OF CATALOGUE HOUSE FROM EARLY 20TH CENTURY

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: HEARD (JUNE 28TH, 2011)

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATIONS: EAVES PARTIALLY BOXED IN

The one-story Craftsman style bungalow, and its accompanying garage, at 95 Pell Place are an unusually intact and increasingly rare example of a “catalogue house” from Sears, Roebuck and Company. They were erected in 1930 for John H. Stafford, a yacht captain. Sears, Roebuck and Company was one of the many mail-order companies that sold pre-fabricated house kits to the budget-conscious middle class. Between 1908 and 1940, its Modern Homes program offered home buyers a choice of some 447 designs in a range of prices. The most prestigious and expensive line was the company’s “Honor Bilt Homes” which included “The Osborn,” the model chosen by Captain Stafford.



By the early twentieth century a distinctly American bungalow style emerged. The style was particularly popular in California thanks to the influence of the architectural firm of Greene & Greene. “The Osborn” is typical of the Craftsman style bungalow with low-hanging, cross-gabled roofs that shelter deep porches and Arts and Crafts inspired windows and doors.



The house, which retains a high level of integrity, is an excellent example of its type and represents a distinct period of development on City Island.