



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

April 10, 2013 / Calendar No. 15

N 130201 HKK

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated February 21, 2013, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the Firehouse, Engine Company 40, Hook & Ladder Company 21 (now Engine Company 240/Battalion 48), 1307-1309 Prospect Avenue (Block 5285, Lot 21), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on February 12, 2013 (Designation List 462/LP-2526), Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 7.

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.

On February 12, 2013, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated the Engine Firehouse, Engine Company 40, Hook & Ladder Company 21 (now Engine Company 240/Battalion 48) as a city landmark. The firehouse is located at 1307-1309 Prospect Avenue (Block 5285, Lot 21) in Brooklyn Community District 7.

According to the LPC's designation report, this firehouse, constructed in 1895, was built as part of a campaign by Brooklyn Fire Department Commissioner Frederick W. Wurster to replace the old firehouses housing the volunteer fire companies, in Brooklyn's recently annexed districts, with new buildings suitable for up-to-date equipment and full-time professional staff. This firehouse was built to serve the growing community of Windsor Terrace and replaced the firehouse of the volunteer Windsor Hose Company, which had been in operation since 1888. It was designed by the noted architect Peter J. Lauritzen, a Danish immigrant, who practiced in Washington D.C. before moving to Brooklyn and establishing a practice in Manhattan in 1883. It is one of eight firehouses that Lauritzen designed for the Brooklyn Fire Department between 1894 and 1897, and is his finest in the Romanesque Revival Style, a style favored by Brooklyn

firehouses of the period, and one in which Lauritzen was particularly at home. The building's imposing limestone and brick façade features an asymmetrical design with a rusticated limestone ground story, round corner turret richly decorated with Romanesque motifs, a broad round arched window set off by a drip molding with label stops, a flat-arched double-window flanked by colonnettes, an elaborate arched cornice, and an asymmetric parapet. The quality of the building's materials, workmanship, and details distinguished it from the residential and commercial buildings in the neighborhood and were intended to create a sense of civic pride. Engine Company 40, now Engine Company 240, has been housed in the present building and has served the Windsor Terrace neighborhood with distinction for over a century and since 1978 the building has also been home to Battalion 48, which oversees Fire Department units in Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Borough Park.

Pursuant to Section 74-79 of the Zoning Resolution, this site is not eligible for transfer of development rights because it is located within an R5B district.

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.

The subject landmark does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution. In addition, the Commission is not aware of any conflicts between the subject landmark designation and projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement, or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark building.

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