JUDSON MEMORIAL CHurch, Washington Square South at Thompson Street, Borough of
Manhattan 1892; architects McKim, Mead & White.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 541, Lot 23.

On March 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing
on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Judson Memorial Church and the
proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 20). The hearing
had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Five witnesses
spoke in favor of designation, including the Rev. Howard Moody, the Minister of
the Church, who urged the Commission to designate it. There were no speakers in
opposition to designation. The Borough President’s Community Planning Board
Number Two supported designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Sitting proudly on a corner lot of Washington Square South, this small
rectangular church, with its sharply defined gable roof, is a superb example of
Italian Renaissance Eclectic architecture. Adjacent to and contiguous with the
Tower (campanile) of Judson Hall, the Church completes this architectural com­
position which was designed by one of the city's great architectural firms. An
outstanding feature of this Church is the two story entrance doorway set between
the Tower and the Church proper. Five half round steps lead gracefully up to a
small platform, where one enters the Church through a pair of dark wood panelled
doors, recessed within a richly decorated Italian Renaissance terra-cotta frame.
The shallow arched porch (portico) is supported by two columns. The panels
(coffers) in the vault of the arch contain floral rosettes centered in ornamental
panels. The low pitched tile roof adds another dimension and scale to this fine
building.

The bands of superb terra-cotta ornament alternating with two courses of
recessed yellow Roman brick continue in horizontal bands around the first floor of
the north and east elevations. The north facade contains three round-headed
stained glass windows placed between brick pilasters and symmetrically balanced
by round-headed brick panels. Below the sills are marble panels enframed
in handsome terra-cotta mouldings. Crowning this facade is a beautifully proportioned
low-pitched pediment enriched by a handsomely ornate cornice. The east elevation
also contains slender brick pilasters placed between seven round-headed stained
glass windows, enhanced by their graceful arches sweeping along this facade in
uninterrupted rhythm.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

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 Judson Memorial Church 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, Judson
Memorial Church is a rare example of the Italian Renaissance Eclectic style, that
along with its companion buildings Judson Hall and the Tower, it forms a superior
architectural composition unsurpassed in New York City and that they add to the
rich heritage of our architecture.

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 Judson Memorial
Church, Washington Square South at Thompson Street, Borough of Manhattan and
designates Tax Map Block 541, Lot 23, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.