

POST PHOTONEWS

A fine PS to saga of school

By ROBERTA BRANDES GRATZ

THERE WERE plenty of historical and architectural reasons for designating PS 39 an official city landmark. But, in the end, it was the students at the Park Slope school who convinced the Preservation Commission.

More than 100 of them, from the first through fifth grades, showed up at the panel's public hearing two months ago to appeal for designation.

"It's a nice old building and there aren't many other schools like it," fifth grader Dean Asofsky, president of the student body, told the commissioners.

Today, the commission will formally vote to approve landmark status for the 100-year-old building.

The three-story symmetrical brick structure, with its mansard roofs and delicate crestings, has been a symbolic anchor for the Brooklyn community for decades.

Located at Sixth Av. and Eighth St., PS 39 is "one of the few public schools of its period which continues to serve its original function," says the commission's designation report.

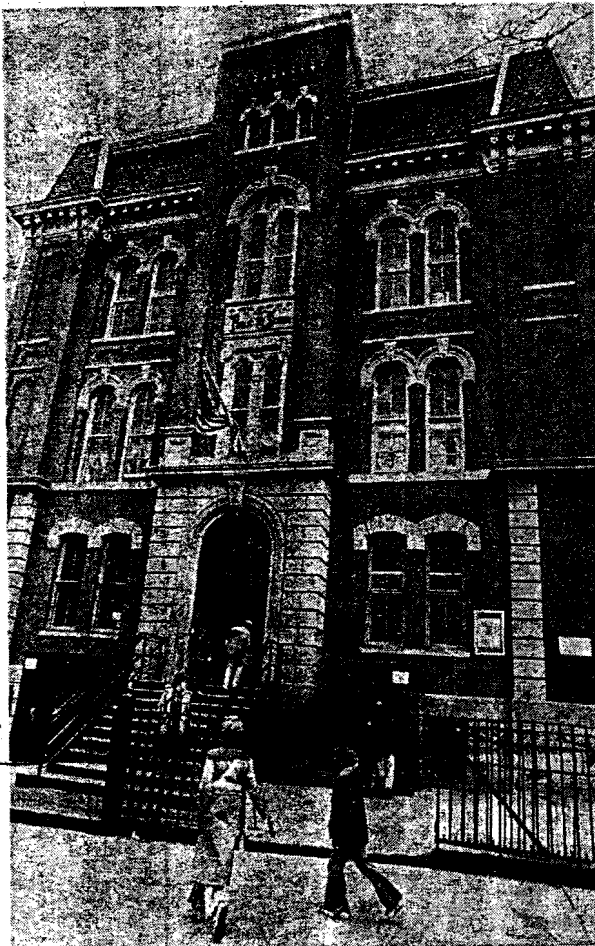
Evidence of pupil pride is everywhere.

In classrooms, there are student paintings of the bright red building. The kids sport sweatshirts and badges with the school's profile on them. And the proud principal, Myron Yermak, uses souvenir stamps with a school photo in place of a return address on correspondence.

The community is planning an assortment of activities to celebrate the school's centennial—a parade, a dinner, a journal. "It's a tiny place," says Yermak, "but it means a lot to scores of people."

Says Beverly Moss Spatt, commission chairman, "PS 39 is the embodiment of the neighborhood school as the anchor of its community."

"Not only is it a key element in the physical makeup of Park Slope, but more important, it plays a crucial role in the lives of its residents, all of whose lives are enriched by the qualities embodied in this attractive, human-scaled, historic schoolhouse."



To demonstrate pride in their 100-year-old landmark school . . .



Post Photos by Vic DeLuca
David Pagan (left) and Vincent Kong, both 11, sport sweatshirts and emblems.