

A Harlem Landmark Gets OK

By ROBERTA B. GRATZ

The Harlem River Houses, one of the city's earliest and most successful low-rise public housing projects, has been designated a city landmark. The cluster of four- and five-story red-brick buildings with its courtyards, malls and terraces was built in 1936-37 as the first federally-constructed, federally-owned housing project in the

POST SEP 23 1975
Apartment in the complex, located at 151st St. between Macombs Pl. and the Harlem River Drive, were available only to low-income people partially because Harlem realtors at the time feared competition for their higher priced properties, according to the commission's designation report.

Other Actions

Along with the housing complex, three other designations were announced today by the commission.

¶ The Stuyvesant Square Historic District, the city's 27th landmark district, bounded by 15th and 18th Sts. and Second and Third Aves. The district includes Stuyvesant Square, donated to the city in 1836 as a public park by Peter Gerard Stuyvesant, a descendant of the peg-legged governor.

The district also includes approximately 60 mid-19th century row-houses, mostly of the simple Italianate style and, notes the commission report, "the neighborhood has retained the intimate residential scale and quiet charm of the 19th century."

¶ The 1891 Boys' HS. at 832 Marcy Av., Brooklyn, is, according to the commission report, "a monumental example of the Romanesque Revival style." Distinguished by its rich terra cotta ornament, round-arched windows and doors, gables and dormer windows, this style was popular in New York in the late 1880s and early 1890s, when Brooklyn was still an independent city.

Many of the borough's landmarks—Main Post Office (1891), the Jay Street Firehouse (1892), the Bushwick Democratic Club (1892)—were designed in this style.

The current school is moving to a new building, and changing its name in the process to Boys' and Girls' HS. The landmark building will be taken over by Medgar Evers College.

¶ Dry Dock 1 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard was constructed from 1840 to 1851 and was one of the major feats of American engineering of the period. The primarily underground site with an intricately arranged granite super-structure was the first permanent dry dock in the New York area and has housed many important ships during construction or repair. Among ships launched from this structure were the Monitor of Civil War fame and the Niagara, which laid the first Trans-Atlantic cable.