



Name of Property: St. Bartholomew's Church and Community House
City, State: New York, New York
Period of Significance: 1914 - 1930
NHL Criteria: 4, Exception 1
NHL Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values
5. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design
Previous Recognition: 1980 National Register of Historic Places
National Historic Context: XVI. Architecture
M. Period Revivals (1870-1940)
Essays on Modern Architecture

NHL Significance:

- St. Bartholomew's Church is a pivotal example of the work of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue (1869-1924) and an outstanding example of early twentieth-century ecclesiastical architecture. Built in 1918 and completed in 1930, St. Bartholomew's is a colorful Romanesque structure with Byzantine features and rich decoration.
- A defining feature is the much celebrated, extraordinary Romanesque triple portal designed in 1903 by Stanford White, renowned architect of McKim, Mead and White, and modeled after the entrance to the Abby Church of St. Gilles du-Gard in Southern France. The sculpture and bronze doors are great works of art integral to the highly significant architectural ensemble by Daniel Chester French, Andrew O'Connor, Philip Martiny, and Herbert Adams. The portal was moved in 1918 from the congregation's



previous church to the current site on Park Avenue.

- Goodhue's masterful design is a successful realization of complex functional, aesthetic, and spiritual requirements: To provide a harmonious setting for the Romanesque triple portal and to create the best spatial arrangement and distribution of masses in which all can see and hear the preacher, view the alter, and participate in the service. The design is especially significant within the totality of Goodhue's work leading to the final stage of his artistic expression embodied in the Art Deco style of the Nebraska State Capitol.
- The significance of St. Bartholomew's was at once widely recognized. *The New International Year Book, A Compendium of the World's Progress for the Year 1918* proclaimed: "Probably the most important and interesting building completed during the year - is St. Bartholomew's Church in New York, by Bertram G. Goodhue, in a free version of the Romanesque, based primarily on the fine triple portal transferred from the old church." St. Bartholomew's was significant in the transformation of Park Avenue from a brewery lined street to a prominent residential boulevard.
- Central to the aesthetic power and social messages implicit in Goodhue's best work are the contributions of his artistic collaborators, notably architectural sculptor Lee Lawrie, and mosaicist and muralist Hildreth Meière, whose works are defining features of the interior of St. Bartholomew's.
- The 1928 Community House and 1930 Great Dome by Goodhue's successor firm complemented the church building in scale, materials and decoration.

Integrity:

- Following the completion of the Great Dome in 1930, the only significant changes have been the gradual addition of stained glass windows by a variety of artists, and the interior remodeling of the Community House to meet the changing needs of the congregation.
- With the preservation of the Community House and its plaza, St. Bartholomew's church survives as one of the few remaining low-rise, open spaces among the skyscrapers that dominate Park Avenue just north of Grand Central Terminal. Ninety-seven years later it still plays a defining civic role, offering aesthetic pleasure and comfort to the passerby, as well as testimony to pivotal moments both in New York City's growth and in Goodhue's remarkable career.
- The site has retained its defining features, the buildings are structurally sound, but age and the elements have had an impact. The St. Bartholomew's Conservancy, an independent non-profit organization established for the express purpose of helping preserve the historic character and architectural significance of this magnificent site, is fully committed to its restoration and long-term preservation.

Owner of Property: The Rector, Churchwardens and Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Church in the City of New York.

Acreage of Property: 1.09 acres

Origins of Nomination: The St. Bartholomew's Conservancy with the assistance of Percy Preston, St. Bartholomew's Church Archivist; consultant David Garrard Lowe, architectural

historian; Carole French and Constance Evans, respectively the Conservancy's president and executive director.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- NHL designation should allow new opportunities for funding the restoration of these important buildings and assist in the preservation of the site as a remarkable civic amenity.
- NHL designation will enhance the public's knowledge of the history and significance of the site and help expand recognition of the importance of historic preservation.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Allan moved, Dr. Mills seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 12/01/15):

Peg Breen, President, The New York Landmarks Conservancy, New York, New York
Donald G. Tober, Chairman, Sugar Foods Corporation
George J. Mitchell, New York, New York
Keith Reinhard, Chairman Emeritus, DDB Worldwide, New York, New York
John J. Huston, Senior Vice President, Office of the Chairman, Colgate-Palmolive Company
John Merow, New York, New York
Charles Scribner III, New York, New York
Sarah Carroll, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York, New York
Kate Haw, Director, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Daniel R. Garodnick, Council Member, 4th District, Council of the City of New York, New York
Peter M. R. Kendall, Warden, and Anne Adams Rabbino, Warden, Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Church, New York, New York
Thomas J. Moran, Chairman and Executive Officer, Mutual of America, New York, New York
Ruth A. Pierpont, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation, New York State Historic Preservation Office, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Waterford, New York
Mrs. Arete Warren, Chairman, Preservation League of New York State (2009-2012); Member, New York State Board for Historic Preservation (1998-2010), New York, New York
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, United States Senate, Washington, DC
Ernest von Simson, New York, New York
Hugh Hardy, H³ Hardy Collaboration Architecture LLC, New York, New York

Advisory Board Recommendation: