

Park & Tilford Building

Individual Landmark

310 Lenox Avenue



The Park & Tilford Building. Photo: Wikipedia

The Park & Tilford Building is located on Lot 69 of Block 1723 in Manhattan, New York City. The building is in Central Harlem, sixteen blocks north of Central Park on Lenox Avenue, also known as Malcolm X Boulevard. The parcel is located at the southeast corner of Lenox Avenue, which runs north and south, and West 126th Street, which runs east and west. The building was constructed in 1908 as a Park & Tilford grocery store with offices above, designed by New York City architect B. Justice Simonson. The National Basketball Players Association, whose offices occupy the building's third floor, recently completed a rehabilitation of the building utilizing federal historic tax credits.

The Park & Tilford Building is located on an 8,500 square foot parcel. The parcel measures 100 feet north-south along Lenox and 85 feet east-west along 126th Street. The parcel is flat, and the building is built to the lot line with no character-defining landscape features.

The Park & Tilford Building is a three-story unreinforced masonry building with full basement with wood floors and joists supported by a steel column grid. The Park & Tilford Building is

essentially rectangular in footprint with a slight setback on the east elevation forming a lightwell.

Designed in the Classical Revival style, the building contains two street facing elevations: the Lenox Avenue (west) elevation which contains the main entrance and the north (126th Street) elevation. The east elevation directly abuts an adjacent building at the first story and is recessed at the second and third stories creating a lightwell faced in red brick. The south elevation directly abuts an adjacent building.

The west and north elevations are similar in materials and design and are highly articulated with Classical detailing. The west elevation is organized into six bays while the north elevation contains five bays. Materials include beige brick cladding with white marble, limestone, and terra cotta decoration that largely define the design. Ornamentation on the two street facing elevations includes a belt course dividing the first and second stories which is supported by marble ionic pilasters between the bays. This is complemented by a pronounced intricately detailed cornice with dentils and modillions that is supported by ionic pilasters rising two stories from the belt course. Additional decoration includes pronounced terra cotta window surrounds; the surrounds on the second floor being more elaborate than the third. The building's west facade also features a pedimented entry in the southernmost bay containing a round arched opening with double-leaf aluminum glazed doors with transom. This entrance services the offices on the second and third stories. Storefronts line the first story of the west elevation, continuing one bay onto the north elevation. The storefronts are aluminum and match the configuration represented in an historic photograph of the building with a traditional base/display window/transom organization. Fenestration on the building is provided by aluminum windows that match the windows represented in the historical photograph. The first story of the north elevation contains small, rectangular, single-light units that are located immediately beneath the belt course dividing the first and second stories. At the second story, the two primary elevations are lit by tall single-light sash with transoms organized in pairs and groups of three. Fenestration at the third story of the two street elevations is provided by 1/1 units with transoms paired and in groups of three.