

**St. Nicholas Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church (former Memorial Chapel of St. Mark's Parish), 288 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street a/k/a 155-157 Avenue A, Manhattan**



This building was constructed in 1882-83 as the Memorial Chapel of St. Mark's Parish by Rutherford Stuyvesant for his deceased wife, Mary Pierrepont Rutherford Stuyvesant. St. Mark's Church in the Bowery is an Episcopalian church located to the west of the Memorial Chapel at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. This church probably ceased being a chapel of St. Mark's Parish around 1909 and was occupied by the Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church until 1911. The present Orthodox Christian congregation rented the church from the Episcopal Diocese of New York in 1925 and in 1937 they bought the building and named the church after St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra.

Rutherford Stuyvesant (c.1840-1909), whose real name was Stuyvesant Rutherford, was a descendant of several Colonial figures of New York and New England, including Peter Stuyvesant. His wife Mary, who came from the

Pierrepont family of Brooklyn, died in 1879.

The Gothic style church was designed by James Renwick, Jr. and Company. Although James Renwick, Jr. (1818-1895), one New York City's most prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century architects, is best known for his Gothic Revival churches, such as St. Patrick's Cathedral, he also designed museums, schools, theaters, hotels, hospitals and residences in a variety of styles, including the Gothic and Romanesque Revival and Second Empire.

Constructed of orange brick with matching terra cotta trim, the building has a complex massing, with the Gothic-arch-headed entrance asymmetrically placed on the 10<sup>th</sup> Street façade. The entrance has a recessed, stepped Gothic-arch-headed lintel that is supported by three polished granite columns on either side. Above the double wooden entrance doors is a five-panel stained-glass transom, the center panel of which has a representation of a Russian Orthodox cross. The chapel is contained in a front-facing gable that has three tall Gothic-arch-headed stained-glass windows. A prominent brick chimney with Renaissance inspired decorative terra cotta design at the base below the second floor is located on the 10<sup>th</sup> Street façade. An elaborate gable dormer is located on the Avenue A façade of the corner tower and has similar decorative terra cotta ornament below the second floor.