

TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PARSONAGE IN BROOKLYN.

July 25, 2011

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sunday School and Parsonage in Brooklyn.

On June 22, 2010 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sunday School and Parsonage. There were five speakers in favor of designation, including representatives of Councilmember Reyna, and Assemblyman Vito Lopez, the vice president of St. Paul's Church, representatives of the Historic Districts Council, and the Williamsburg Waterfront Preservation Alliance, as well as the pastor for the Presbyterian Resurrection Church and several individuals. There were no speakers opposed to designation. On April 12, 2011, the Commission voted to designate the complex a New York City individual landmark.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sunday School and Parsonage, designed by architect J. C. Cady in 1884-85, is an exceptional example the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. With its German origins, the style was especially appropriate for this German Lutheran congregation, one of the earliest Brooklyn churches founded by this large immigrant group. In 1852, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was the second German Lutheran congregation in Williamsburgh, Brooklyn. The church prospered along with its congregants, maintaining religious services in the German language and offering an extensive educational program. For St. Paul's, Cady designed a substantial church building of brick and terra cotta, highlighted by a prominent corner bell tower. Its many stained-glass windows, round-arched openings and variety of towers and brick moldings enliven its simple red brick facade. The church complex, including the parsonage to the west and the school attached to the east, forms a cohesive group that anchors this residential section of Williamsburg. Originally a dynamic part of the important and influential German community, the church continues to serve a Spanish Lutheran congregation.

The Commission urges you to affirm this designation.

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

July 25, 2011

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE LANDMARKS
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE N.Y.C. CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 324-334 SOUTH 5TH STREET, BROOKLYN AS AN
INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

Good day Chair Lander and members of the City Council. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy is pleased to support designation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church as an individual landmark. The St. Paul's complex, which is composed of the Church, Sunday School and Parsonage, located on a prominent corner lot in Williamsburg, anchors its community with a distinguished architectural heritage and active social programming.

All three buildings in the complex were constructed in 1884-1885 in the Romanesque Revival style with Holland and Philadelphia brick, to the designs of J.C. Cady & Company, architect of many landmarked buildings, including the American Museum of Natural History. Significant features include a 135-foot corner bell tower; the massive Romanesque arch at the ground floor; original geometric leaded glass windows with Tiffany-style "jewels" and one figural window by German-trained George Durham from the 1920s.

Today, the church houses three congregations, totaling about 150 members, who worship weekly at several services. There are English and Spanish Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations. The Sunday school wing is used extensively by the surrounding community for showers, wedding receptions, and christenings. The parsonage is used as a group home by St. Christopher's - Otilie Services for children and Families and the Rodney Street GLBTQ.

The congregation at St. Paul's recognizes the valuable role of its historic buildings, and the Conservancy has been actively involved with the church for several years. We funded a conditions assessment in 2009, which determined that repairs to the tower and roof were the highest priority. Now, landmark designation will qualify the church for a challenge grant of up to \$50,000 for additional work at the tower and roof, as well as a third grant towards the costs of an experienced construction manager to guide these repairs.

We urge you to designate St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church as a landmark. Like so many other historic religious buildings in New York, it is a living symbol of our culture, our community and our history. Designation ensures that this legacy will continue. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 431 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7-25-2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James F. Walker

Address: 348 South 5th St

I represent: St. Paul's

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

L.U.#431

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/25/2011

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Name: Erin Barros

Address: 348 South 5th Street

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 431 Res. No. _____

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Date: 7/25/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: Centre Street 9th Floor

I represent: LPC

Address: STATA

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LV431 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7-25-11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Goldwyn

Address: 1 Whitehall St. NYC 10004

I represent: New York Landmarks Conservancy

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆