

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC
SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF
THE HENRY AND SUSAN MCDONALD HOUSE**

September 8, 2015

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. I am Michael Owen from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Henry and Susan McDonald House located at 128 Clinton Avenue in Brooklyn.

On June 2, 2015 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Henry and Susan McDonald House. The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At that hearing there were two speakers in favor of the designation, including representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy and Historic Districts Council. The Commission also received letters of support for the designation from Council Member Laurie Cumbo and Brooklyn Community Board 2. There were no speakers or letters in opposition to the designation.

This item was previously heard on June 25, 2013. At that hearing there were three speakers in favor of the designation including representatives of Council Member Letitia James, the Historic Districts Council and Landmarks Conservancy. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The Commission also previously received a letter in support of the designation from the Victorian Society New York.

The Henry and Susan McDonald House was built in the Italianate style with Greek Revival elements in 1853-1854. Built during a time of rapid development in the Wallabout area, it is located on Clinton Avenue, the neighborhood's premiere residential street.

The cubic form, capped by a low hipped roof with strongly projected bracketed eaves is characteristic of the Italianate style. The molded door surrounds, wood-and-glass double doors with segmental-arched transom and wood reveal and the columned portico with dentils and paired brackets are also hallmarks of this style. The fluted porch columns with Tower of the Winds Corinthian columns and eared surrounds on the first-floor windows add Greek Revival style elements to the façade.

Henry McDonald, a prominent baker lived in the house with his family until the mid-1870s. Subsequent owners include merchant David S. Jones, attorney Edgar J. Phillips and physician Domenick Candella. Though there have been some changes to the façade and stoop, as well as a



HENRY AND SUSAN McDONALD HOUSE (LP-2543), 128 Clinton Avenue (aka 128-132 Clinton Avenue & 128 Rear Clinton Avenue) Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn, Tax Map Block 1887, Lot 82

Public Hearing: June 2, 2015
 Designated: June 16, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC
SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE M.H. RENKEN
DAIRY COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING AND ENGINE ROOM BUILDING**

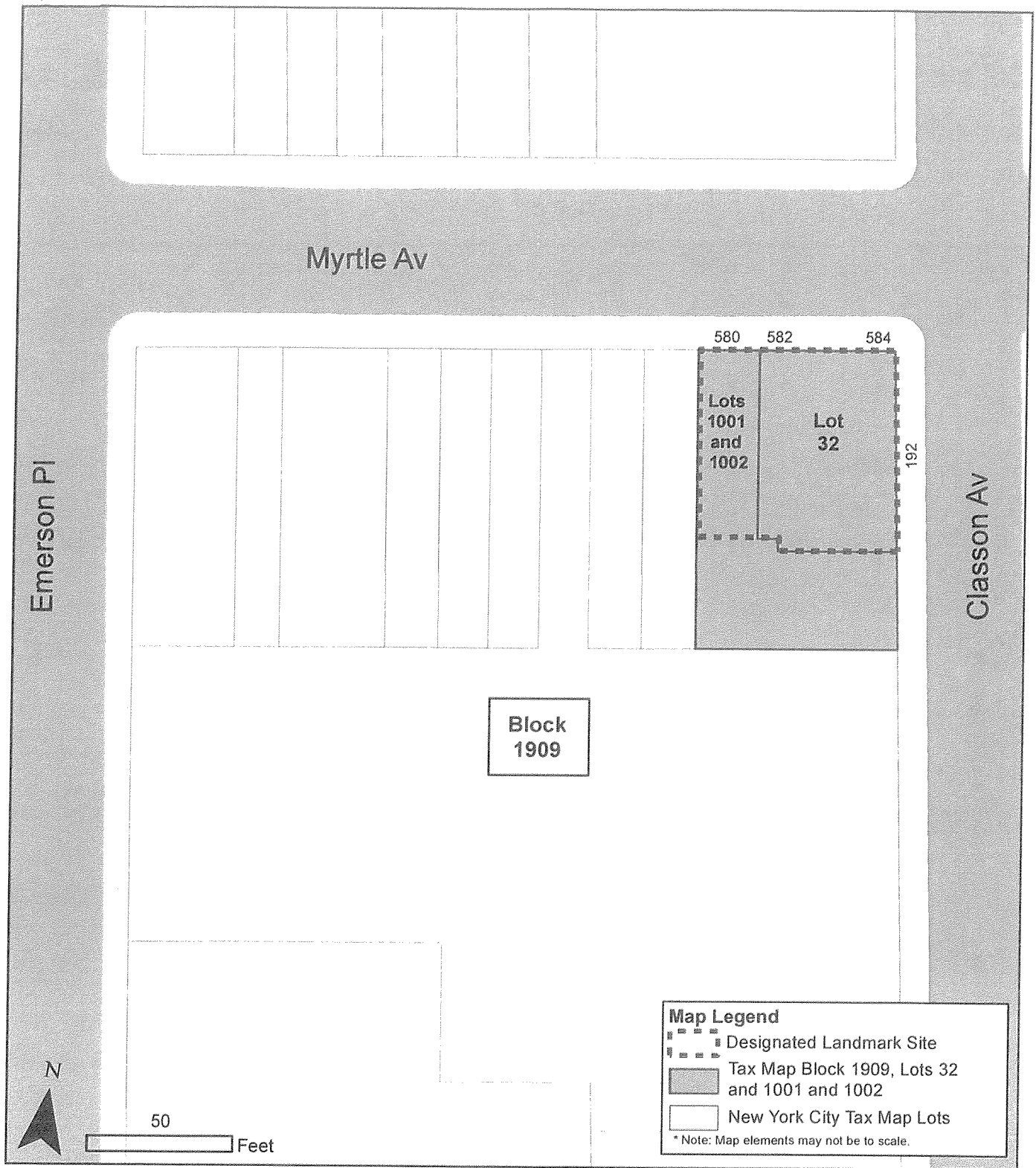
September 8, 2015

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. I am Michael Owen from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the M. H. Renken Dairy Company Office Building at 582-584 Myrtle Avenue and the Engine Room Building at 580 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn.

On June 2, 2015 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the M. H. Renken Dairy Company Office and Engine Room Buildings. The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At that hearing there were two speakers in favor of the designation, including representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy and Historic Districts Council. The Commission also received letters of support for the designation from Council Member Laurie Cumbo, Brooklyn Community Board 2 and the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership. There were no speakers or letters in opposition to the designation.

This followed two earlier hearings where the two buildings were heard individually. The M. H. Renken Office Building was previously heard on April 2, 2013. At that hearing, four people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of the Historic Districts Council, Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership, New York Landmarks Conservancy, and Society for Clinton Hill. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The M.H. Renken Dairy Company Engine Room Building was previously heard on October 29, 2013. One person, a representative of the Historic Districts Council, spoke in favor of designation. The public hearing was then closed and re-opened to hear the testimony of a representative of the building's owner, who spoke in opposition to designation. In 2013, the Commission received a letter in support of designation of the Renken Office Building from then-Council Member Letitia James.

The M. H. Renken Dairy Company Office and Engine Room buildings are two structures with a unified Art Moderne style located at the corner of Myrtle and Classon Avenues in the Clinton Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn. Founded by German Immigrant Martin H. Renken in 1888, at its peak in the 1930s, it was the third largest dairy in New York City. As a part of this prosperity, Renken hired the Brooklyn firm of Koch & Wagner to design a new office building and in 1936 to renovate the 1860 building next door, combining the two façade for the look of one unified building.



M.H. RENKEN DAIRY COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING AND ENGINE ROOM BUILDING (LP-2519)

582-584 Myrtle Avenue (aka 192 Classon Avenue) and 580 Myrtle Avenue

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn, Tax Map Block 1909, Lot 32 in its entirety and Lots 1001 and 1002

in part, consisting of that portion of

Lots 1001 and 1002 lying north of a line beginning at a point on the eastern boundary line of Lots 1001 and 1002 that is 61.21 feet south of the northern boundary line of Lots 1001 and 1002, thence running westerly, parallel with the northern boundary line of Lots 1001 and 1002, to a point on the western boundary line of Lots 1001 and 1002.

Calendared 11/20/2012 and 9/17/2013

Public Hearings 4/2/2013, 10/29/2013 and 6/2/2015

Designated 6/16/2015

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Margaret Spillane

Address: 159 St Marks Avenue

I represent: MS One Brooklyn CEC 13

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL *For Questions*
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Capt Timothy Hollywood

Address: 11 Front St - Property (NYPD Division)

I represent: NYPD

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL *For Questions*
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robert Martinez

Address: 1 Police Plaza

I represent: NYPD

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LISA KERSAVAGE

Address: 1 Centre St. New York

I represent: LPC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Owen ~~Lisa Kersavage~~

Address: LPC, 1 Centre Street,

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAYRELL TAYLOR

Address: 1 HOGAN PLACE

I represent: NEW YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dale Lazerson

Address: _____

I represent: DCAS Asset Management

Address: 1 Centre St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 3483 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9.8.15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gib Veroni

Address: 284 Park Place, Brooklyn

I represent: Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council

Address: Same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/8/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KENRICK ON

Address: 30-30 THOMSON AVENUE, LIC

I represent: NYC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Address: "

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