

#### TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES REGARDING DESIGNATION of THE PETER P. and ROSA M. HUBERTY HOUSE January 23, 2018

Good morning Chairs Adams, Salamanca and Committee Members. My name is Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and I am joined today by Ali Rasoulinejad, our Director of Community and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Commission's designation of the Peter P. and Rosa M. Huberty House, located in the Borough of Brooklyn, Block 3322, Lot 38.

The Commission voted to designate this property on October 24, 2017. The building had originally been calendared and heard in 2013. The Commission has received both written and verbal public testimony, including support for designation from former Council Member Diana Reyna, current Council Member Antonio Reynoso, the Historic Districts Council, and the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The property owner, her son, and a community member supporting them together opposed designation. Late last year, representatives of LPC and Council Member Reynoso met with the owner, and explained that the commission staff can be a resource to owners providing technical guidance and recommending appropriate methods and materials for maintenance and restoration work.

The house was designed in 1900 by the notable Brooklyn architect Ulrich Huberty for his parents, and is a significant and intact example of the Colonial Revival style of the early 20th century. It contributed to the late 19th and early 20th century development of Bushwick Avenue as one of Brooklyn's prestigious residential districts, and remains one of the most distinguished examples of this historical development.

The landmark site on Bushwick Avenue includes the full tax lot, and joins other designated residential and institutional buildings in this area of Bushwick, including the Catherina Lipsius/Dr. Frederick A. Cook House at 670 Bushwick Avenue, the DeKalb Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Reformed Church of South Bushwick. Like these buildings, the Huberty House speaks to the rich history of development of this community.

A prominent figure in Brooklyn politics and the local community, Peter P. Huberty was a German-born



lawyer and Democratic politician who was elected to one-term as Kings County Clerk at the turn of the 20th century. His son, Ulrich J. Huberty was an important Brooklyn architect, notable for many fine residential, ecclesiastic, civic and commercial buildings, such as the Prospect Park Boathouse and the Williamsburgh Trust Company Building, both designated individual landmarks.

Working in the Colonial Revival style popular after the 1876 centennial, Huberty adapted Georgian and Federal precedents for his parents' house, including the symmetrical arrangement of the façade, its hipped roof with dormers, red brick facades laid in flemish bond with gray brick quoins, and windows topped with splayed terra-cotta lintels.

The striking main façade features a semi-circular portico combined with an open veranda, an arched entrance, and bay windows. Among other notable features of the house are the substantial cornice, the variety of dormers including this one with a Palladian window on the main façade, and its ornate ironwork. The house's architectural details and craftsmanship stand out as particularly fine.

Between 1909 and 1928 subsequent owners added four extensions, each carefully designed to harmonize with the original design, including a vestibule added on the northwest corner of the house as a private entrance to a doctor's office, and extensions at the rear of the house. It was eventually acquired in 1937 by an Italian-born tailor whose family has owned the house ever since.

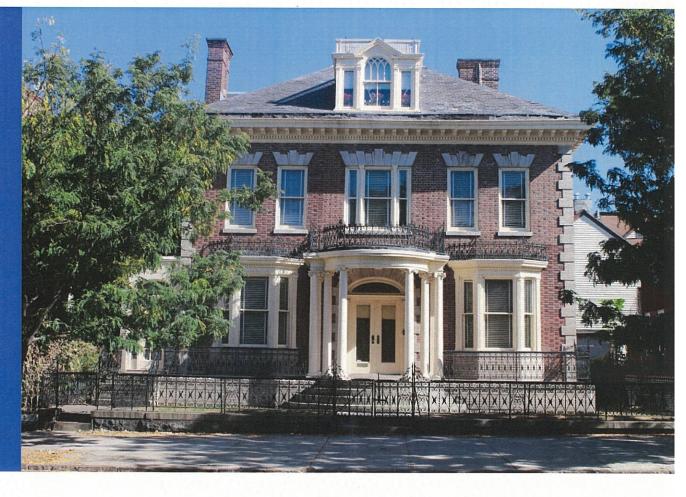
The Peter P. and Rosa M. Huberty House is a particularly fine, intact example of the Colonial Revival style, and a significant early work by a prominent Brooklyn architect. This property represents Brooklyn's immigrant history and the early-20th century character of Bushwick Avenue when it was lined with many large free-standing homes. We request that the City Council uphold the designation.



# Peter P. and Rosa M. Huberty House

City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, and Maritime Uses

January 23, 2018



Huberty House, 2017, LPC

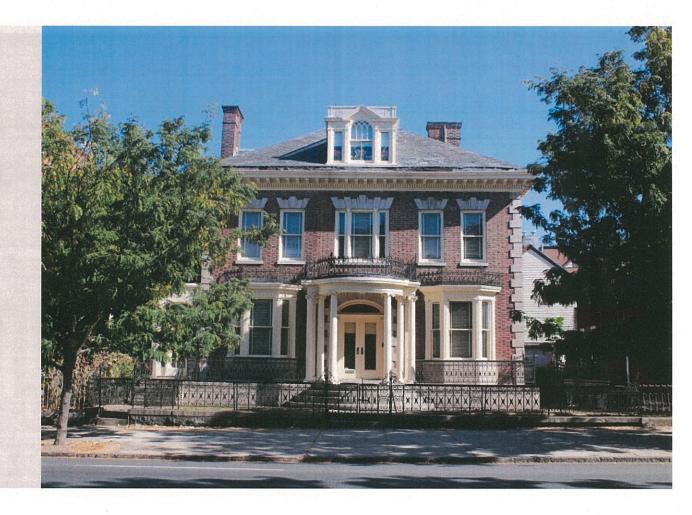


## Peter P. and Rosa M. Huberty House

Address: 1019 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn Tax Map Block 3322, Lot 38

Built: 1900 Architect: Ulrich J. Huberty

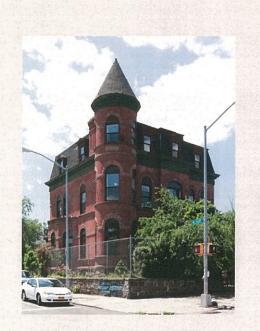
Item Calendared: May 14, 2013 Public Hearing: June 25, 2013 Designated: October 24, 2017



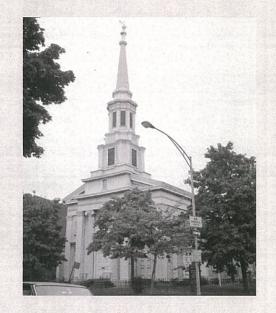








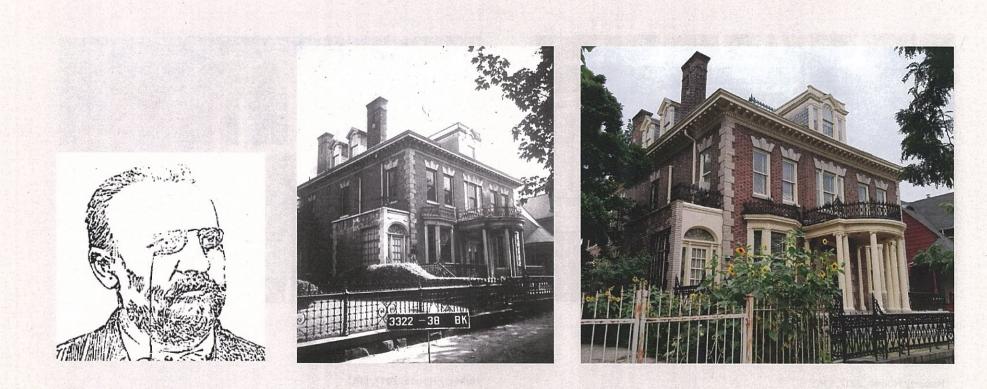




Catherina Lipsius-Dr. Frederick A. Cook House Brooklyn Public Library, DeKalb Branch

Reformed Church of South Bushwick





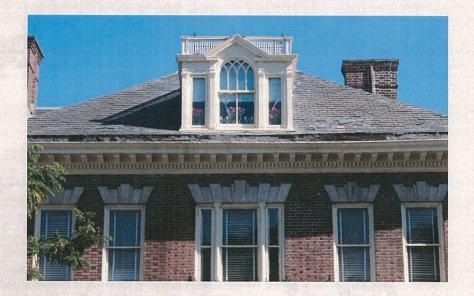
Peter P. Huberty, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, October 20, 1985

Tax Photo, c. 1940, Municipal Archives

Huberty House, 2017, LPC







Huberty House, 2017, LPC

Huberty House, 2017, LPC



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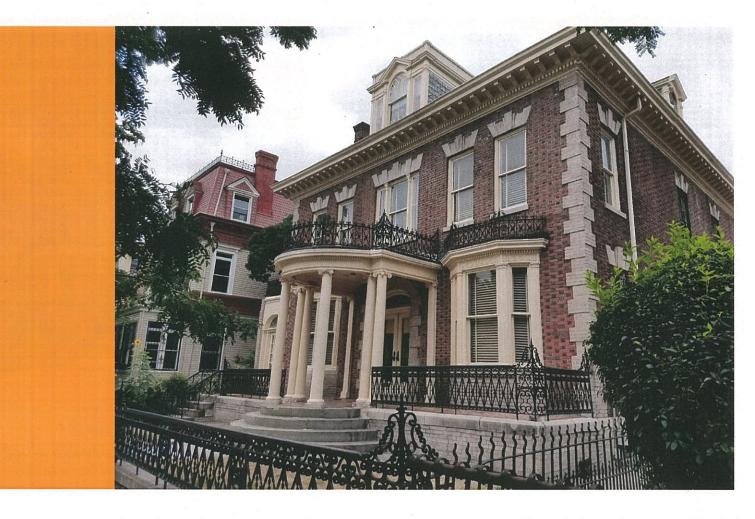
Peter P. and Rosa M. Huberty House Designated October 24, 2017



North façade, 2013 LPC

South façade, 2013, LPC





Huberty House, 2017

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THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

### ANTONIO REYNOSO

COUNCIL MEMBER, 34<sup>™</sup>DISTRICT, BROOKLYN and QUEENS

<u>CHAIR</u> SANITATION

COMMITTEE EDUCATION LAND USE HOUSING TRANSPORTATION STATE-FEDERAL LAW

SUB-COMMITTEE ZONING AND FRANCHISES

### Statement in Support of Landmark Designation for the Peter P. and Rosa M. Huberty House

Chair Adams and Members of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, and Maritime Uses:

I am writing to express my full support for the landmarking of the Huberty House at 1019 Bushwick Avenue. The Huberty House is a treasure of Bushwick Avenue, a unique Colonial Revival brick mansion dating to 1900 that is unlike any other building in all of Bushwick.

This remarkably intact house is situated near the center of a historic stretch of Bushwick Avenue where most of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century fabric remains in place. Unfortunately, the existing R6 zoning on Bushwick Avenue makes the Huberty House and neighboring historic properties extremely vulnerable to demolition and redevelopment as we have begun to see elsewhere in the neighborhood.

I strongly support the designation of the Huberty House and I urge the Subcommittee to approve this landmark so that we can ensure that this unique and important building remains in the community.

Sincerely,

Council Member Antonio Reynoso District 34

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