

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

June 23, 2009

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING INTRO 542-A**

Good morning Chair Lappin and members of the City Council. I am ~~Alex Herrera~~ *Andrea Goldwyn* speaking for the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy supports Intro 542-A, the "Landmarks Protection Bill" first introduced by Council Member Mendez in 2007.

We are grateful to Council Member Mendez and her colleagues for taking up this important issue and introducing legislation to close key loopholes in the processes that regulate historic buildings. We have seen too many buildings defaced or even demolished after the Landmarks Preservation Commission expresses an interest in their designation. Sometimes an owner will attempt to end run ~~potential~~ designation by obtaining Department of Buildings permits to deface masonry or to demolish the building in part or in whole. These permits can then be used to counteract the city's legitimate landmark designation procedure. Such "pre-emptive" permits should not be allowed to prevent the designation of worthy historical sites and structures.

or circumvent
The bill also seeks to strengthen communications between the two agencies so that they are not working at cross purposes.

Preservation of New York's historic buildings is environmentally friendly, creates jobs, boosts tourism and stimulates the local economy. This bill will be a forceful statement affirming the Council's support for preserving New York's historic buildings. We hope that the Council will continue strengthening the legal protections afforded our neighborhood landmarks.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.

FOR THE RECORD

TESTIMONY OF THE REAL ESTATE BOARD OF NEW YORK, INC. IN OPPOSITION TO INTRO. 542-A, a bill to require the landmarks preservation commission to issue notice to the department of buildings when a property has been calendared for designation as a landmark, requiring the department of buildings to issue notice to the landmarks preservation commission when permit applications for buildings that have been calendared for designation as a landmark are received, and revoking permits previously issued by the department of buildings when a property is designated as a landmark.

June 23, 2009

The Real Estate Board of New York, Inc. is a broadly based trade association of almost 12,000 owners, developers, brokers and real estate professionals active throughout New York City. We are here today to express our opposition to Intro. 542-A which would lapse a building permit on the effective date of the landmark designation. A second change would cause permits based on professional certification to undergo a full Department of Buildings review if a building were to be calendared by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

This bill as proposed would alter longstanding policies in regard to the validity of building permits and would have a number of far-reaching negative impacts on property development in this city. These changes in established policy are not commensurate with the benefits this bill hopes to attain.

The lapse of permit provision for designated properties and the extra review of permits for calendared buildings would significantly alter the Landmarks Law and longstanding practices about the validity of permits. These practices have provided confidence to builders and lenders pursuing a project. This proposed change would undermine project development and investment throughout the city. As you know, land assemblages for development are put together over years and sometimes decades. Millions of dollars are invested in purchasing land and buildings for redevelopment. Building permits that cannot be arbitrarily revoked protect that investment and assure lenders that the project is real and proceeding. Intro. 542-A undermines the progress of projects and strips away the protection a validly issued permit provides investors. This proposed change in established practice would jeopardize financing and add an extra element of risk not present before.

Building calendaring can come unexpectedly and quickly, making the building permits meaningless pieces of paper. Calendaring can be an uncertain and open-ended process. There is no legal requirement for owner notification nor is there an opportunity for an owner to testify. It is not always clear what buildings the LPC is considering for calendaring. In the case of historic districts, it is not clear at that stage which buildings the LPC thinks are style buildings and which are non-style buildings. After calendaring, it's unclear when, if ever, they will make a decision about the designation. It has also rarely been clear when the Landmarks Commission is finished looking at a property. Some buildings that had not been designated after several reviews still have gotten reviewed again. Years of preparation work and expenditures on the part of a developer can be lost in a few weeks when the LPC decides to take yet another look at a property. Lenders are put ill at ease by a building permit that can lapse just because LPC wants to look one more time at the building.

Government should use its regulatory power carefully and should not impose extra burdens that do not create sufficient benefit. There are relatively few buildings overall that have lost historic features because of a previously issued permit. This bill would impede development and renovation, delay many desirable projects and reduce construction jobs. Financing subject to this new and unexpected risk would be more difficult and costly to obtain. It's simply unfair to owners working in good faith to rescind a validly issued permit and it's hardly a recipe for lowering development costs and revitalizing our economy.

Under 542-A, The Board of Standards and Appeals would be able to grant an extension to complete the project if substantial performance and substantial expenditures have been made in furtherance of such permit. The proposed Board of Standards and Appeals process is very expensive relief from the lapsed permit. Even if the BSA grants the extension, stopping work and going through such a process can take 3 to 4 costly months, delaying a project that is underway. And the process offers no relief to those who have made substantial investments but not started construction.

In conclusion, REBNY is strongly opposed to this bill. Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

June 23, 2009

City Council
Land Use Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting,
and Maritime Uses
Jessica Lappin, Chair
City Hall
New York, New York 10007



Intro 542-A + P.S. 133
Re: ~~East Village / Lower East Side Rezoning~~

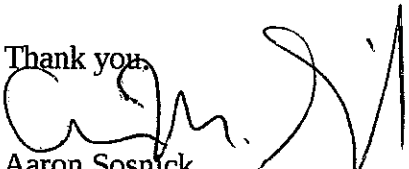
Good morning Chair Lappin, other Councilmembers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before your subcommittee. My name is Aaron Sosnick. I'm the Secretary, and a founder of the East Village Community Coalition. Charles B.J. Snyder schools are among the architectural treasures of New York City. New York was extremely fortunate to have such a talented and energetic head of school construction around the turn of the last century. His schools are a legacy that must be preserved.

One such school, old P.S. 64, has been the subject of much attention and debate in my neighborhood. This much loved structure is now a designated landmark of the City of New York. Unfortunately the owner of this building exploited loopholes in the New York City Landmarks Law to strip some detail from the building, despite its landmark designation. Intro 542-a "The Landmarks Protection Bill" would close some of these loopholes. The EVCC strongly supports this bill.

It's ironic and sad that on the same day we discuss such a bill, the city itself is contemplating the destruction of another C.B.J. Snyder school. Would that the current School Construction Authority had the talent and wisdom of Charles. Snyder. It would never consider demolishing one of his buildings. While Park Slope is not the East Village. We in the EVCC can only sympathize with, and in stand in solidarity with those in Park Slope, who, apparently, were not even consulted as malicious plans to destroy an extraordinary structure were plotted by the city itself. The School Construction Authority must not be allowed to proceed in this manner.

Thank you,


Aaron Sosnick
Secretary

THE LANDMARKS PROTECTION ACT: BUILDINGS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED

**Compiled by Historic Districts Council, 232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003
Contact: Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director, 212-614-9107**

Former Public School 64, 605 East 9th Street, East Village, Manhattan. ALTERED
This C.B.J. Snyder designed community landmark has extraordinary architectural, historical and cultural significance. In June 2006 the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate P.S. 64. The owner opposed designation and in an attempt to stop landmarking, successfully filed for alteration permits to demolish architectural detailing on the building. Still the LPC moved forward with designation despite the owner's continued destruction of the property.



Before



After: Removal of Architectural Features

City and Suburban Homes Company-Amendment, 429 East 64th Street and 430 East 65th Street, Manhattan. HEAVILY ALTERED

As with P.S. 64, previously existing permits were used to wreak havoc on the City and Suburban buildings despite their amended designation in 2006. These buildings, having been cut out of the original designation because of insider politics, now have had their windows inappropriately replaced, cornices removed and facades stuccoed over.



Before



After

NoHo Historic District Extension, Manhattan. ALTERED AND DEMOLISHED

In March 2008, the LPC moved forward with an extension of the existing NoHo Historic District as proposed by the community in 1999. When the LPC published a map of the proposed district in 2007, many building owners obtained permits for alterations or demolitions. By the time the public hearing for the historic district went forward many buildings had already been altered, or in the case of 30 Great Jones Street completely demolished. While the LPC finally designated the area in summer 2008, several buildings were lost in the meantime



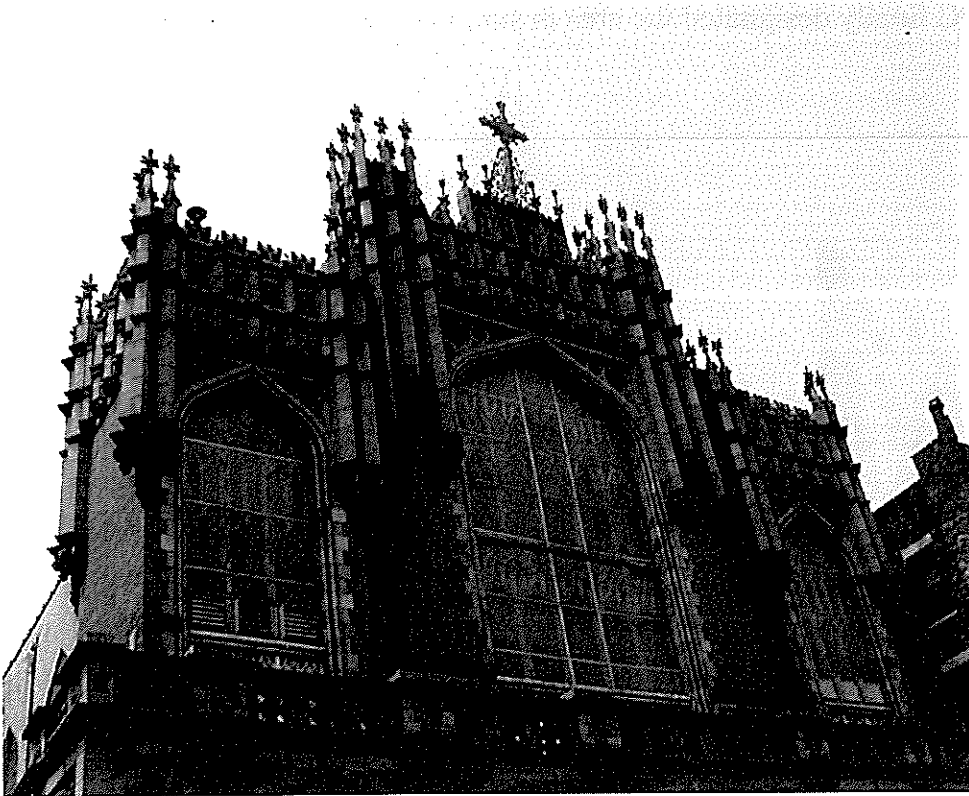
30 Great Jones Street during demolition



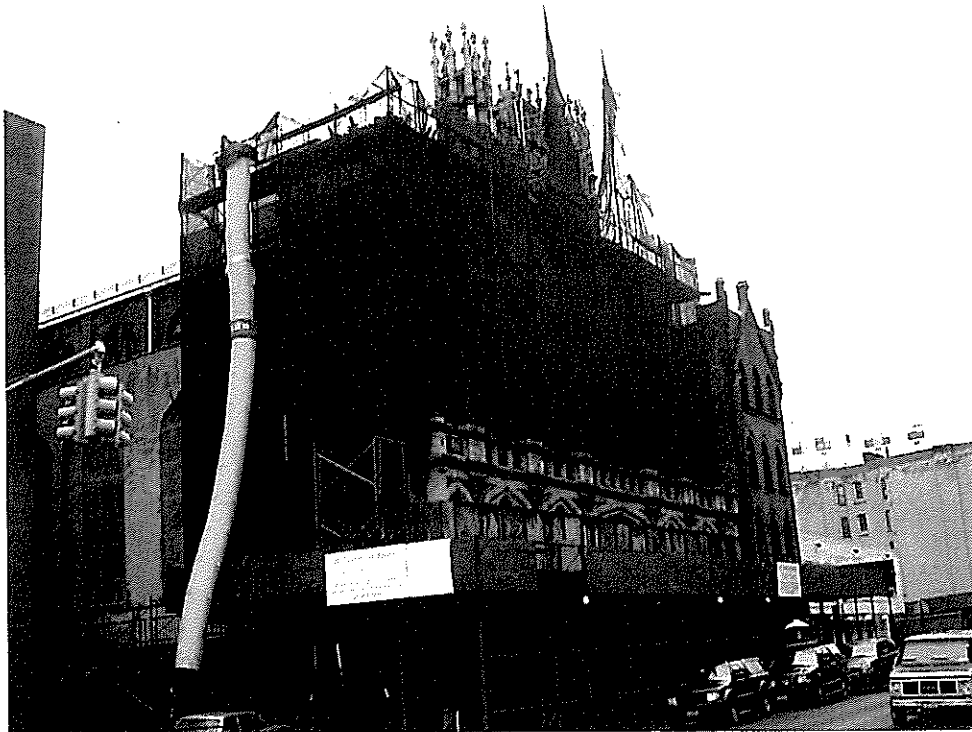
After

St. Thomas the Apostle, 262 West 118th Street, Harlem. HEAVILY ALTERED

This 1907 Thomas H. Poole designed church possessed unique and eye-catching terra cotta façade details before the Roman Catholic Church decided to close it in 2003. Despite intense community and political pressure, the LPC declined to consider it for landmark status due to existing building permits. The work has ceased on the building and it remains shrouded.



Before



After

Odd Job Building, East 14th Street and University Place, Manhattan. DEMOLISHED
This commercial building by renowned architect Morris Lapidus was fully restored in 1999, only 6 years before its demolition. The demolition was ongoing during the LPC's consideration of the site, and the building was actually calendared, but to no avail.



Before



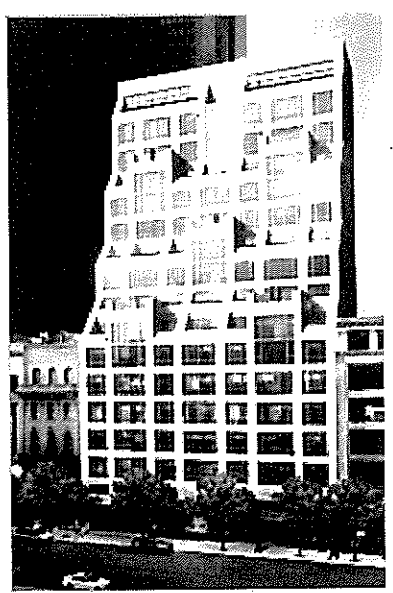
After

31, 33, 35, 37, 39 West 56th Street, Manhattan. DEMOLISHED

Although these Beaux-Arts rowhouses had been surveyed by the LPC in the mid-1980's and determined to be candidates for designation consideration, nothing was done to protect them. Twenty years later, the LPC was unable to act to defend these building due to issued alteration permits.



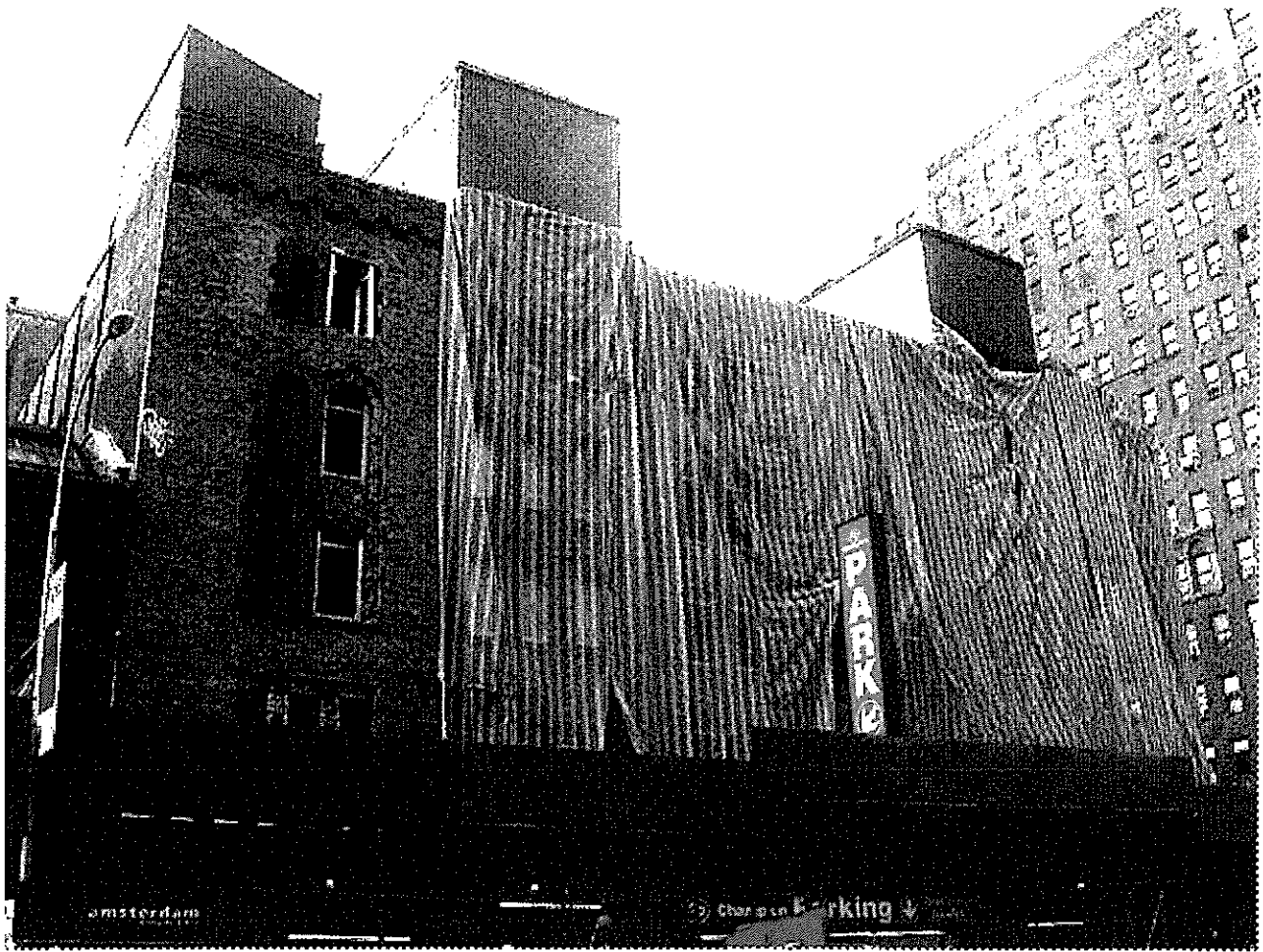
Before



After

Dakota Stables, 348 Amsterdam Ave, Upper West Side, Manhattan. DEMOLISHED

This imposing 1891-1984 stable building was originally part of the Upper West Side Historic District when it was proposed in the 1980's but was cut out of that designation because of owner opposition. Work begun while the LPC was deliberating on the building and the designation was declined because of both damage done and the extent of the allowable work.



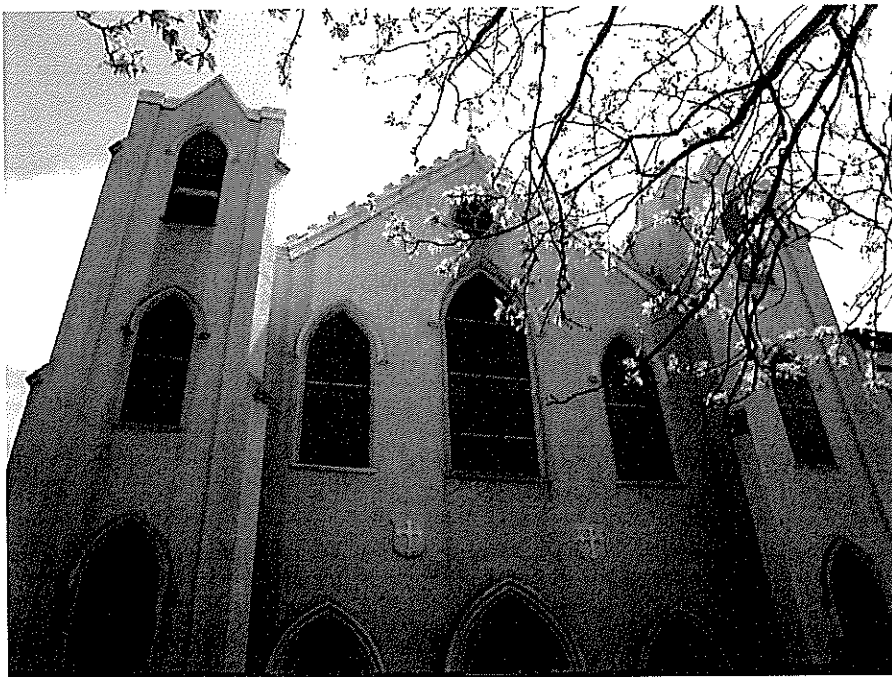
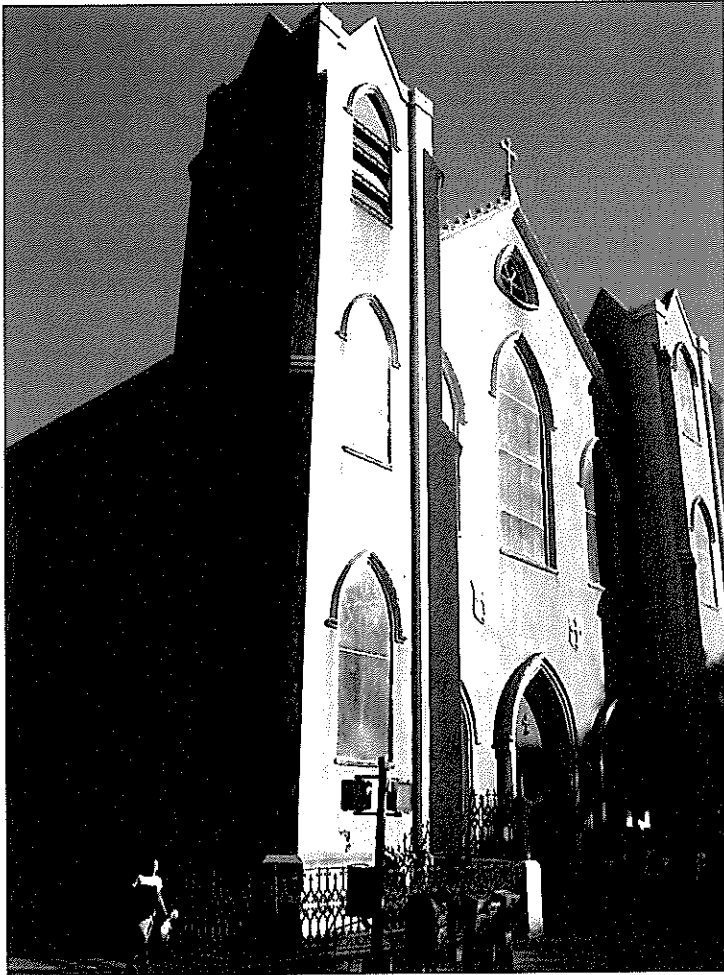
Before



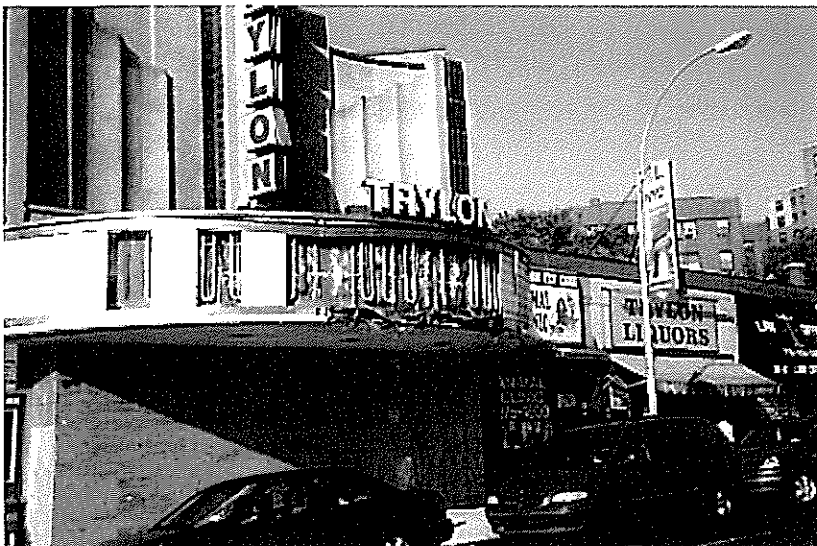
After

St. Brigid's, Thompkins Square Park, East Village, Manhattan. ENDANGERED

The Archdiocese has been granted permits to greatly alter this Patrick Keeley designed building from 1848, which has again prevented any real discussion of its preservation, despite the permits still being inactive. Fortunately, this church was saved by a private donor but other buildings are not as fortunate.

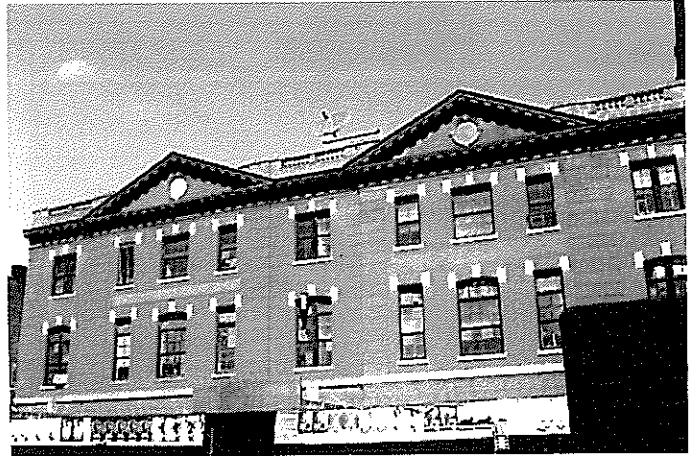


Trylon Theater, 98-81 Queens Boulevard, Rego Park, Queens. HEAVILY ALTERED
Permits were granted to strip this 1939 Art Moderne theater of its ornamentation and destroy its mosaic lobby. The work did not begin for months, but served as a bulwark against serious preservation efforts.

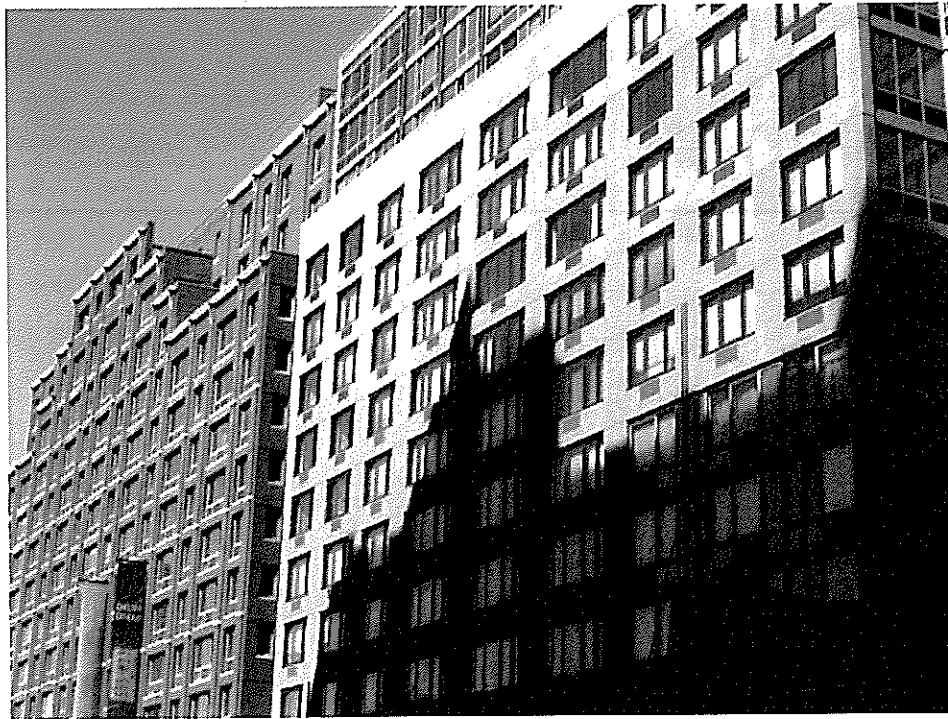


23rd Street Warehouses, Chelsea, Manhattan. DEMOLISHED

These National Register-eligible turn-of-the-century warehouses were demolished to build luxury apartment buildings. Originally, public funding was sought for this project but when the State Historic Preservation Office balked, the project went ahead with private funding. During the months of negotiations with the owner, the LPC was rendered powerless due to existing alteration permits.



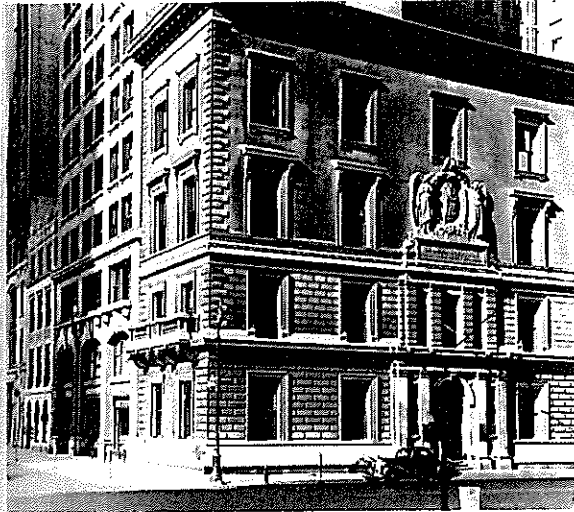
Before



After

ASPCA building, 50 Madison Avenue, Manhattan. HEAVILY ALTERED

This significant building on Madison Square Park was originally intended to be part of the Madison Square North Historic District and even appeared on the initial map. When the building owners heard that the LPC was going to calendar the district, they got a self-certified permit for a massive rooftop addition. Then-LPC Chair, Sherida Paulsen explained to the New York Times: "If it's within the historic district, it looks like something we approved. It's confusing to applicants to see new work and assume that's the kind of work they can do."



Before



After

Testimony of the Municipal Art Society
Before the Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses Subcommittee of the City Council
By Melissa Baldock
Intro 542
June 23, 2009

Good Morning Council Members. I am Melissa Baldock, Kress/RFR Fellow for Historic Preservation and Public Policy at the Municipal Art Society. The Municipal Art Society is a private, non-profit membership organization that fights for intelligent urban planning, design, and preservation through education, dialogue and advocacy.

MAS is pleased that many of the concerns we had about the earlier version of this Intro have been addressed in the amended bill being considered today. Overall, MAS believes that Intro 542-A will help strengthen the regulations of the Landmarks Preservation Commission in protecting our city's historic resources. However, we do urge that some critical changes be made to the intro before it is approved by the City Council.

Our primary concern relates to the changes proposed for Section 28-108.2.6, which seems to codify Operations Policy & Procedure Notice (OPPN) #13/88. MAS believes that making this important agreement between the Department of Buildings and the Landmarks Preservation Commission part of the Administrative Code of New York City is laudable. However, as written, the Intro 542-A is much less specific and less protective than OPPN #13/88. In particular, the intro only indicates that the DOB commissioner must forward a copy of any application for a demolition, alteration, or new building permit to the LPC. It does not formally give the LPC the opportunity to act. Conversely, OPPN #13/88 states that "the LPC will have 40 calendar days from the date the application was filed to consider the case and calendar the premises, if necessary, to vote on its designation." MAS urges the Council to include similar language in Intro 542-A to ensure that the authority that the LPC has under OPPN #13/88 is not in anyway weakened if this Intro is passed.

In addition, OPPN #13/88 notes that if there are already permits under review, but not yet issued, by the DOB at the time of calendaring, then the "aforementioned notification process will be implemented and the LPC will have 40 days to respond." This situation does not seem to be addressed in Intro 542, and MAS believes that if it is not included, the Intro will weaken rather than strengthen the LPC's jurisdiction.

MAS has further concerns about other parts of this Intro. Under Section 25-313.e, MAS requests that a time period be included for LPC's written notice to DOB after a building has been calendared for designation. We suggest that the intro require the LPC to give written notice of calendaring to the DOB within three days of the calendaring, as is the case with the notification

of designation. MAS recognizes that the LPC under this and prior administrations have notified the DOB of calendaring in a timely manner, but we believe that a specific time period of three days should be codified.

It is important to note that this bill is limited in scope. It will not stop many of the instances where damaging work is done to historic buildings before they are calendared or even, in many cases, after calendaring. MAS questions whether there will be unintended consequences of this if this intro is enacted. For instance, will it encourage owners to not only pull permits but to commence destructive work sooner and work faster in order to vest their development rights? In the case of P.S. 64, a situation of the type this bill is attempting to address, would it have encouraged the owner to act expeditiously on his permits to strip the façade rather than hold on to the permits? Any legal methods to prevent such acts should be explored.

MAS supports legal mechanisms to strengthen the LPC's authority over owners who try to side-step landmark designation by undertaking damaging work to their buildings. Although this bill is a step towards that goal, MAS believes that the critical changes suggested above need to be made before the bill is passed. Otherwise, we fear that this intro may do more harm than good.



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Before the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks,
Public Siting and Maritime Uses
Regarding Intro. 542-A
June 23, 2009**

LANDMARK WEST! is a non-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Upper West Side has lost its fair share of landmark-worthy buildings—the former Dakota Stable (Amsterdam Avenue & 77th Street) and the former Colonial Club (Broadway & 72nd Street) are just two recent examples of beautiful 19th-century buildings, designed by important architects, anchoring prominent corners in our community, demolished in haste by their owners to pre-empt landmark designation.

As we speak, rowhouses along West End Avenue—an area actively under consideration for historic district designation, but not yet calendared—are on the brink of demolition.

In these cases and too many others throughout the city, the culprit was a Department of Buildings alteration permit, which stymied action by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and gave developers the upper hand.

Council Member Mendez and her many colleagues signed on in support of Intro. 542-A are to be commended for responding to this critical issue. This bill is one of several timely Council initiatives, including bills put forward by Committee Chair Lappin as well as Council Member Avella, to make our city's landmarks process function as it should.

Since this bill was last heard, the urgency of reforming New York's landmarks process has grown exponentially. In two editorials and four investigative articles, the *New York Times* pinpointed numerous areas for improvement, including precisely the issue in question today: the need for "better communication with the Buildings Department to prevent the confusion that has sometimes resulted in the destruction of a building slated for landmark consideration" (*New York Times* editorial, 12/6/08).

The *Times* editorial went on to say, "The proper balance between healthy development and preservation cannot be found unless the commission place a more vigorous and public role." Passing this bill would reinforce the legitimacy of the Commission's seat at the table.

The City Planning Commission already has similar authority when it comes to suspending permits for work that would be noncompliant in areas to be rezoned

It is time to get rid of the red tape and give the Landmarks Commission the power it needs to do *its* job. Please pass Intro. 542-A.

FRIENDS



OF THE UPPER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICTS

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June 23, 2009

City Council Meeting Testimony by Lindsay Smith, Preservation Associate

Re: Int. No. 542-A


Honorable Councilmembers,

FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts is in full support of Intro 542-A, as this legislation will bring New York City preservationists one step closer to saving important buildings and protecting historic districts. It will formalize and improve communication between The Department of Buildings and the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and will help resolve the granting of inappropriate permits.

In Section 25-313, in the first sentence of paragraph E, we ask for a more specific time table that indicates that written notice of every property that has been calendared for designation will be given by the Landmarks Preservation Commission to the Department of Buildings within 3 days. Without this change in the first sentence of paragraph E, the time table is too open for interpretation.

In 2006, FRIENDS witnessed the inappropriate alteration and disfigurement of First Avenue Estates due to the Department of Buildings granting permits for the disfigurement of this building just prior to its calendaring and designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Although the complex was eventually designated, much of its historic fabric had already been lost. We hope this legislation will help prevent future losses of the city's historic fabric. However, FRIENDS is sympathetic to the fact that Intro 542-A will increase the workload of the already understaffed Landmarks Preservation Commission. To this end, FRIENDS supports better funding for the LPC in order for them to handle this increased workload.

Thank you.



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel (212) 614-9107 fax (212) 614-9127 email hdc@hdc.org

Statement of the Historic Districts Council
Before the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses
Regarding Intro 542-a, "The Landmarks Protection Bill"

The Historic Districts Council is the citywide advocate for New York's historic neighborhoods. HDC supports this bill, which will strengthen the Landmarks Preservation Commission's ability to protect designated landmark properties from inappropriate alteration. This bill, originally introduced two years ago by Council member Rosie Mendez in response to the post-designation defacements of PS 64 and the City and Suburban First Avenue Estate, seeks to address the loophole that allows property owners to sit on issued permits in order to avoid landmark designation. Under current law, once Department of Building permits are issued for a project, they remain valid for a set number of years regardless of subsequent landmark designation – resulting in a situation where potentially a façade could legally be stripped off a landmark building despite the LPC's best efforts. This is particularly egregious when a permit is granted and then sat on for years, resulting in a kind of dead man's switch against designation.

Looking at the text of the bill, HDC is mildly concerned about giving discretion to the Department of Buildings about whether an approved permit affects the exterior of the building. It would seem to us that it would be more logical to have the LPC make that determination as they are the expert agency on regulating historic buildings. Additionally, we wish that there some way to strengthen even more the protective aspects of "calendarling", perhaps by requiring the DoB to rescind exterior permits similar to how designated properties are being proposed to be treated. Finally, one curious omission in this bill is the language from Technical Policy and Procedure Notice I3/88, which allows a 40-day window between the Building permit application and its approval for calendared properties. It would seem to be prudent to enshrine this narrow window of opportunity in law, rather than have to depend on an internal policy memo which could potentially be easily changed with scant public notice.

Aside from these small addendums, HDC is fully in support of this bill as proposed. We feel^{it} is a great step towards more effectively preserving New York's historic buildings and a strong statement from City Council on the importance of historic preservation practices.

Jo Anne Simon

NYS Democratic Committeewoman & District Leader
52nd Assembly District
356 Fulton Street, 3rd Flr. Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: 718 852-3528 Fax: 718 875-5728
joanne@joannesimon.com

May 25, 2009

New York City School Construction Authority
30-30 Thompson Ave.
Long Island City, New York 11101-3045

Re: DEIS - Primary School Replacement Facility at PS 133 (William Butler School)

Dear Ms. Greenburger:

I write in response to the recent DEIS issued by the New York School Construction Authority in regards to the proposed replacement school at PS 133 in Park Slope, Brooklyn. I share with you some concerns raised by the findings and provide recommendations to be addressed.

One major concern raised by the proposed construction is the high level of contaminants found in the soil surrounding the site. Considering the fact that the soil must be considered hazardous material and handled as such, great care must be assured for the children and for the families that reside in the neighborhood. Mounting evidence is demonstrating at an alarming rate that exposure to toxins and contaminants can lead to all manner of illnesses, including lesser understood consequences to learning and attentional impairments in children and adults.

As is often the case with development projects, other interested agencies are consulted late in the process and the public, not at all. Traffic around the proposed construction site is already a problem during rush hour. By tripling the number of seats in the school, the proposed project will certainly increase bus traffic and the number of parents who drop off their children proportionally. Increased timing on the traffic lights that are at Baltic and Fourth Ave cannot adequately address the more complicated traffic conditions, which must be looked at comprehensively. I strongly recommend that the SCA demands that to the New York City Department of Transportation conduct a thorough and realistic assessment of the potential increased traffic and provide realistic mitigation to be incorporated in any final plan for development.

The present building that houses PS 133 is a historic building listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The building, designed by C.B.J. Snyder, possesses architectural features that are historically significant. It is a treasure of the neighborhood and as a representative of its era architecturally and socially, it must be preserved.

The proposed replacement school would completely demolish the building and the neighborhood would lose not only a historic treasure, but a significant cornerstone of the neighborhood. I strongly urge the School Construction Authority to consider alternate proposals

that preserve this historical landmark, while remediating the environmental hazards contained in the interior of the structure.

Furthermore, the greenest building is one that is already built. By remediating, rather than completely replacing, the SCA has an opportunity to engage in more environmentally responsible and sustainable planning. By taking a more creative approach, there are surely other options for expansion that fulfill the need for extra space while also preserving open space for recreation and the community garden.

Moreover, the houses in the immediate vicinity on Butler and Baltic Streets are not of the same vintage as the school. Great care must be taken to ensure that property damage does not occur as a result of this construction. Who will watch out for these homeowners and tenants?

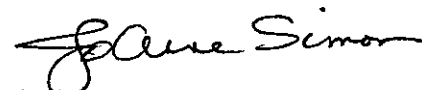
Aside from the environmental hazards, the increased traffic in an area already prone to high congestion, and the irrevocable loss of a significant historical landmark, I strongly urge the SCA to reconsider its proposal for separate entrances for school districts 13 and 15 as presumably, City-wide District 75. Different entrances for different school districts does little to foster a sense of connectedness among the students. Rather, I fear that the plan for separate entrances would reinforce an unhealthy sentiment of separateness and inequality. If the purpose is to share resources among the districts, the spirit of cooperation and community should extend to construction of entrances.

Before the school construction moves forward, I think it is imperative that the SCA and the Department of Education explain how the programs will integrate within the shared building and what efforts will be expended to ensure that students feel more united and less divided.

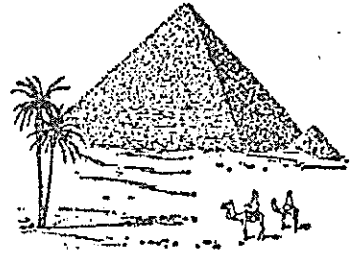
I understand that time constraints that may incline the SCA to act quickly to move through the approval process. However, serious concerns raised by community stakeholders should be thoroughly evaluated. We must not forfeit our history, our health or our character to speedy construction.

I hope that the SCA takes seriously the voices of the community and surrounding neighborhoods and addresses our concerns before any draft replacement facility is finalized. I look forward to working in partnership with the community and the SCA to achieve a constructive solution to these problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Anne Simon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jo Anne Simon



**LEO J. BLACKMAN
ARCHITECTS**

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Hon Jessica Lappin, Chair
Council Landmarks Committee
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

re: **PS 133 Brooklyn** (hearing date 23 June 09)

Dear Chair Lappin and Councilmembers:

I am Leo Blackman, an officer of the Board of the Historic Districts Council. But I'm speaking today as a former resident of Park Slope, and an architect with a specialty working on historic school buildings. I was responsible for the 24,000 square foot addition to the Village Community School on West 10th Street, an even older (c.1885) public school building, and wanted to share my experience from that project.

We sought input from the community. Students and parents loved the high tin ceilings and big windows and patterned brick exterior of the old building, and insisted that the new building have those same features, which we did for \$350 per square foot. Classes continued uninterrupted while construction took place next door. Neighbors expressed concerns, but enthused about how seamlessly the new building fit into their block.

How could decision makers at the School Construction Authority not start their design process by contemplating the inherent value of the existing building? PS133 is a solid light-filled human-scaled structure, which anchors a 19th century neighborhood - tearing it down makes no sense. Demolition would be disruptive and environmentally disastrous. To throw away all that brick and wood just to replace it with inferior materials is foolish, and suggests a serious blind spot at the SCA. The greenest building is already standing.

I ask that the Council send this ill-conceived project back to the drawing board, and the SCA create a scheme that restores PS133, and adds to it appropriately.
Thanks for your concern,

A large, fluid, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo J. Blackman'.

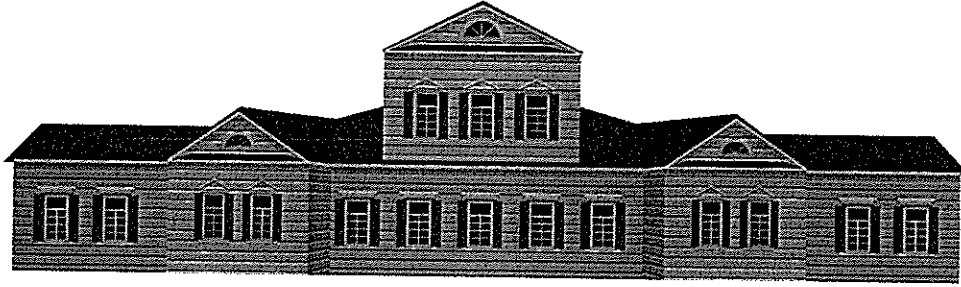
Leo J. Blackman, AIA

District 15 Community Education Council

"Empowering Parents to Claim Excellent Education for All Students"

131 Livingston Street, room 301B, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Phone: 718-935-4267

Fax: 718-935-4356 cec15@schools.nyc.gov



MONTHLY MEETING

PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL FOR DISTRICTS 13 & 15

**FREE
CHILD CARE!**

- School construction Authority (SCA) and other decision makers presenting & listening
- Have your questions answered
 - Who will attend?
 - Is it Pre-K, Elementary, K-8?
 - Does it require rezoning?
 - Will D13/15 educators participate in the planning of the school?
- Give your input
- All interested Parents, Principals, Teachers, Elected Officials and Community Partners are **URGED** to attend

Thursday, January 22, 2008

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

M.S. 136/821

4004 4th Avenue (Between 40th and 41st Streets)

Subway: D, M, N, R to 36th Street

Bus: B37

**Interpretation
available:**

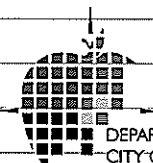
*** Spanish**

For translation in
another language,
call our office
(718-935-4267)

New York City Public Schools

Demographic and Enrollment Trends
1990-2002

Brooklyn



DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
CITY OF NEW YORK

New York City Public Schools

Demographic and Enrollment Trends 1990-2002

Brooklyn



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor, City of New York

Amanda M. Burden AICP
Director, Department of City Planning

nyc.gov/planning

July 2003
DCP # 03-04

Introduction

New York City's under 18 population, numbering 1,940,269 in 2000, is greater than the total population of all but three American cities. Nearly one-quarter of New York City's residents are under the age of 18, and more than 55% of these young people were enrolled in the city's public schools in grades Pre-K to 12 in the 2001-2002 school year. Another 25%, or more than half a million children, were under the age of five; many of these children are about to enter the public school system for the first time. Most of New York City's public school students go to a school within the community school district in which they live.

Under the NYC Department of Education's reorganization plan, ten instructional divisions have been established to oversee elementary, intermediate and high schools within their boundaries. Each instructional division is composed of two, three or four community school districts (Map 0.1). The city's 32 community school districts (CSD) were conceived during the school decentralization movement of the late 1960's. School district boundaries are co-terminus with borough boundaries but otherwise do not conform to any other jurisdictional boundaries in the city, including community districts or municipal, state, or federal election districts.

A considerable amount of information has been collected at the school district level for over 30 years by federal, state and local entities. The availability of comparable data at the school district level continues to be a valuable tool for understanding the complex dynamics involved in providing public education in a city as large and diverse as New York.

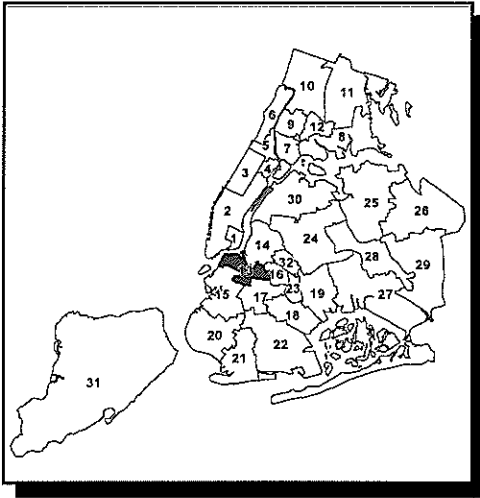
Contents and Organization of Borough School Profiles

These reports present a wide range of information at the citywide, borough and school district level. The focus is on demographic, enrollment and utilization trends, and not on the numerous performance indicators that are used to measure educational effectiveness.¹ The Department of City Planning compiled the information from a variety of independent sources to assist in its own work related to the public school system, including analysis of school needs for neighborhood planning, environmental review, and school site selection purposes. The department believes that others -- educators, community organizations, elected officials, parents and planners -- may also find these profiles of assistance in understanding the differing school district conditions and trends and how they relate to the instructional division, borough and citywide context.

Technical notes, located at the end of each volume, provide explanations of special terms, programs, or methodologies referred to in these reports, as well as the data sources that were used, including Census data and NYC Department of Education reports. The Department of City Planning is responsible for any errors of transcription or interpretation of data from other sources.

The profiles are organized into five borough volumes. Each volume includes information at the citywide, borough, and community school district level.² Illustrative maps, tables and figures provide information on:

- demographic trends, with an emphasis on the under 18 population;
- public school student population trends including recent immigrant students;
- utilization trends for community school districts and high school districts;
- public school enrollment trends;
- Charter schools;
- new school facilities/additions planned or under construction in the borough and in the community school district;
- the location of high schools and high school utilization rates in the borough; and
- the location of each elementary and intermediate school building in community school districts and enrollment, capacity and utilization rates for individual schools in each school district.



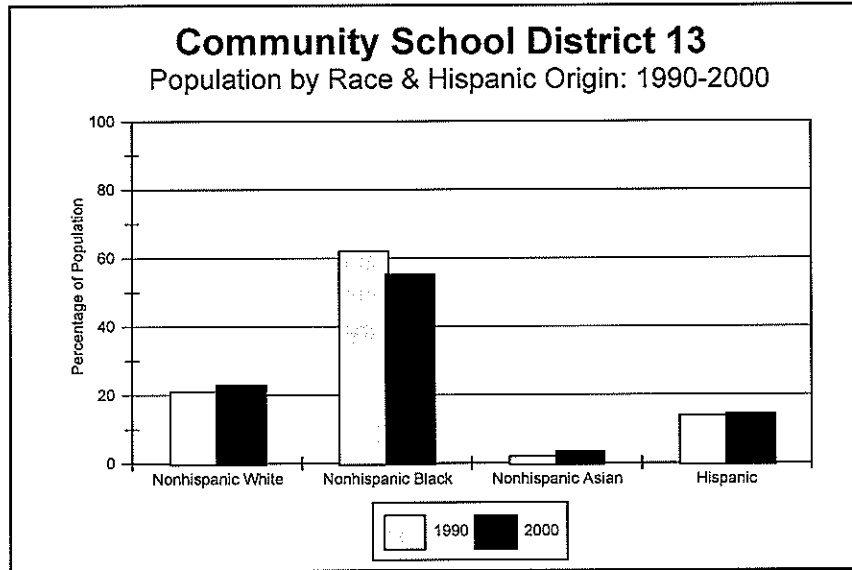
Community School District 13

Community School District 13 (in Instructional Division 8, Map 0.1) is located in northwestern Brooklyn, north of Prospect Park. Neighborhoods within CSD 13 include Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, Vinegar Hill, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and parts of Boerum Hill, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Prospect Heights. Brooklyn's Community District 2 is located almost entirely within CSD 13 which also includes parts of Community Districts 3, 6 and 8 (Map 2.0).

Trends in Community School District 13

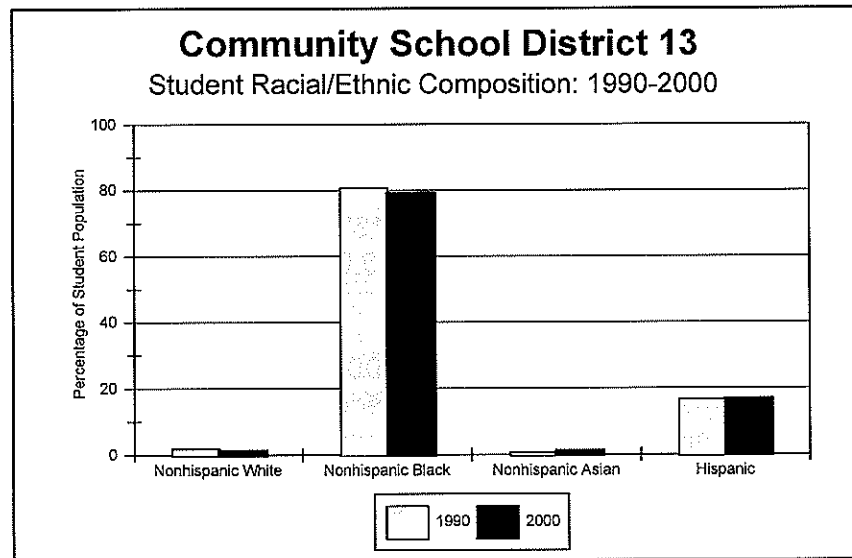
- The total population in CSD 13 was 165,542 in 2000, up very slightly from 161,593 in 1990 (Figure 2.0; Map 1.0).
- Nonhispanic Blacks made up 55% of the district's total population (nearly 80% of CSD 13's student population) in 2000; Nonhispanic Whites were 23% (2% of student population) and Hispanics were 15% (17% of the student population) of the district's population in 2000 (Figures 3.0, 3.1).
- The district's population under 18 was 36,703 (22% of the total population) in 2000, about the same as it was in 1990 (Map 1.1).
- The annual number of resident births in CSD 13 has declined substantially, from 3,281 in 1990 to 2,234 in 2000 (Figure 3.2).
- The student population served by CSD 13's elementary and intermediate schools (including Pre-K) in October 2001 was 15,085, down from 16,731 in 1990 (Figures 3.2, 3.3).
- In the three-year period prior to March 2001, 526 immigrant students registered for Pre-K to 6th grade in CSD 13. The predominant countries of origin were Bangladesh, Trinidad & Tobago, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.
- Utilization rates of most CSD 13 schools, which were well below 100% in 1990, have continued to decline. The district had 4,431 elementary school seats and 2,674 intermediate school seats available in 2001-2002 (Maps 1.2-1.4; Figure 3.4; Tables 3.0-3.3).
- In 2001-2002, 776 children were enrolled in CSD 13 Pre-K programs. Of the total Pre-K enrollment, 41% were housed in non-Department of Education facilities.

Figure 3.0
Community School District 13: Population by Race & Hispanic Origin, 1990-2000.



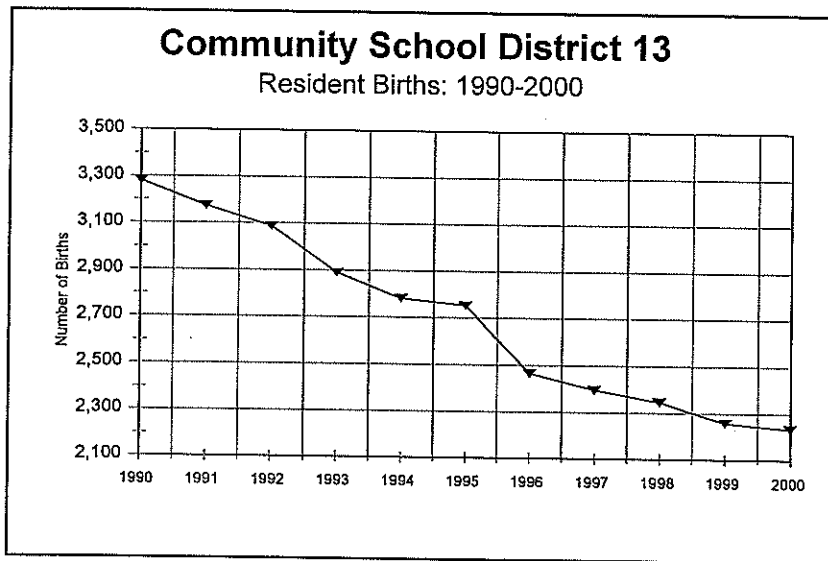
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000, PL94-171 Data File.

Figure 3.1
Community School District 13: Student Racial/Ethnic Composition, 1990-2000.



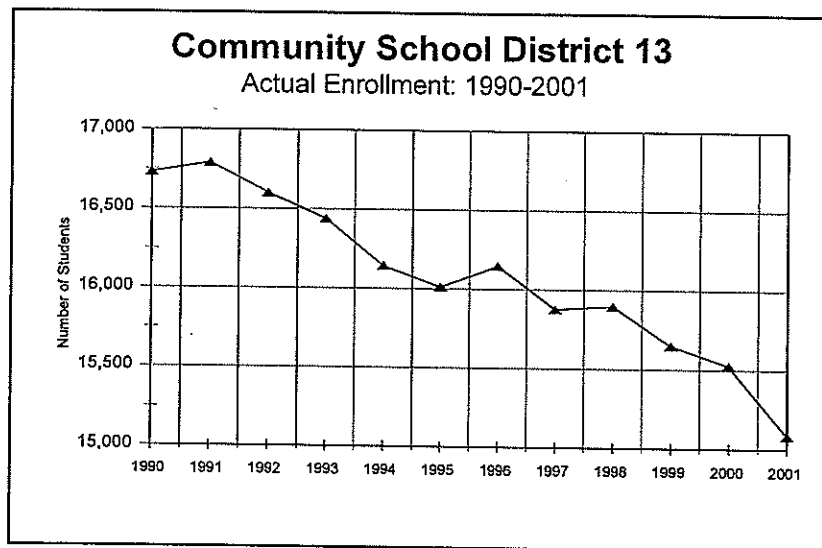
Source: NYC Department of Education, *Pupil Ethnic Composition Report No. 88, October 1990 and October 2000.*

Figure 3.2
Community School District 13: Resident Births, 1990-2000.



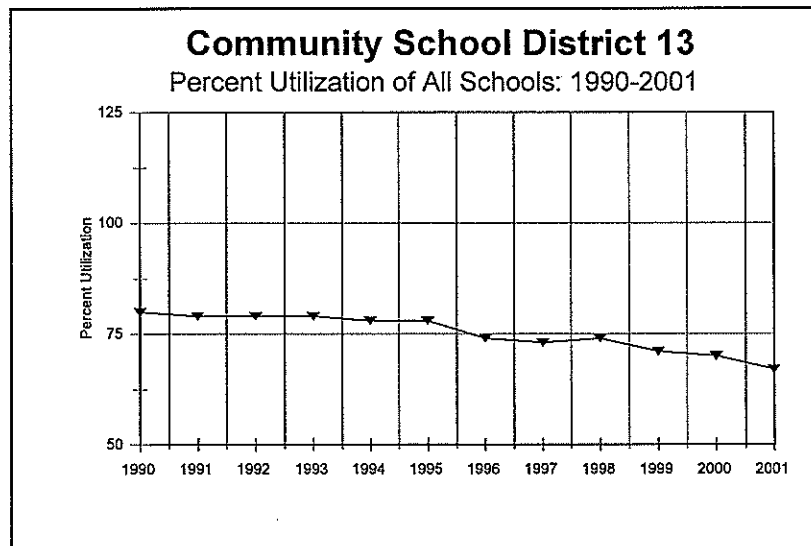
Source: NYC Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 1990-2000.

Figure 3.3
Community School District 13: Actual Enrollment, 1990-2001.



Source: NYC Department of Education District Registers, 1990-1998 and Audited and Adjusted Registers, 1999-2001.

Figure 3.4
Community School District 13: Percent Utilization of All Schools, 1990-2001.



Source: NYC Department of Education, *Utilization Profiles: Enrollment/Capacity/Utilization*, 1990-2001.

Community School District 13

Elementary & Intermediate Schools

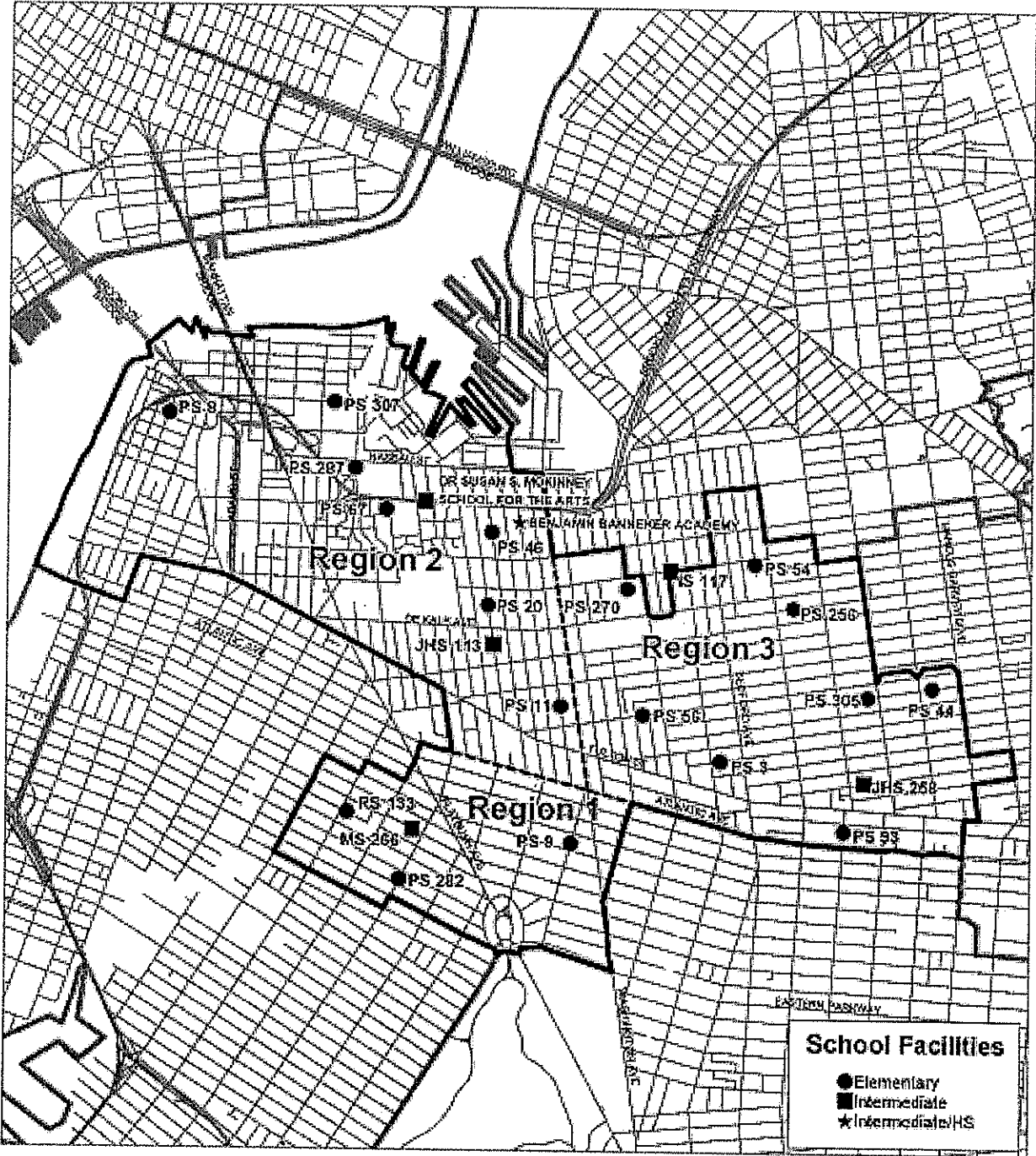


Table 3.0

Utilization Rates for CSD 13 Elementary Schools: 1995-1996, 2000-2001, 2001-2002.

| School | 1995-1996 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PS 3 Bedford Village School | 102% | 99% | 87% |
| PS 8 Robert Fulton School | 79 | 76 | 69 |
| PS 9 Teunis G. Bergen School | 90 | 83 | 73 |
| PS 11 Purvis. J. Behan School | 81 | 71 | 71 |
| PS 20 Clinton Hill School | 96 | 79 | 77 |
| PS 44 Marcus Garvey School | 97 | 90 | 88 |
| PS 46 Edward C. Blum School | 84 | 65 | 64 |
| PS 54 Samuel C. Barnes School | 66 | 84 | 82 |
| PS 56 Lewis Latimer School | 72 | 76 | 74 |
| PS 67 Charles A. Dorsey School | 63 | 71 | 71 |
| PS 93 William H. Prescott School | 84 | 76 | 75 |
| PS 93 Annex | 46 | 51 | 53 |
| PS 133 William A. Butler School | 79 | 97 | 97 |
| PS 256 Benjamin Banneker School | 73 | 74 | 74 |
| PS 270 DeKalb School | 86 | 69 | 58 |
| PS 282 Park Slope Elementary School | 85 | 61 | 60 |
| PS 287 Dr. Bailey K. Ashford School | 80 | 66 | 56 |
| PS 305 Dr. Peter Ray School | 103 | 70 | 70 |
| PS 307 Daniel H. Williams School | 70 | 57 | 68 |
| Average PS Utilization Rate | 82% | 75% | 72% |

Table 3.1

Utilization Rates for CSD 13 Intermediate Schools: 1995-1996, 2000-2001, 2001-2002.

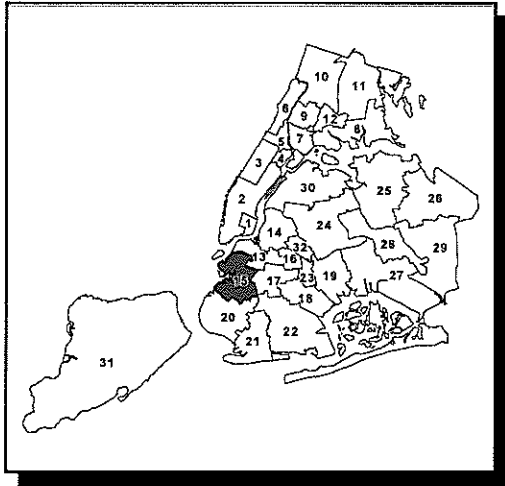
| School | 1995-1996 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| IS 113 Ronald Edmonds Learning Center | 67% | 62% | 58% |
| IS 117 Francis Scott Key Intermediate School | 61 | 68 | 58 |
| JHS 258 David Ruggles Junior High School | 63 | 51 | 57 |
| MS 266 Park Place Community Middle School | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Dr. Susan S. McKinney School for the Arts | 52 | 46 | 47 |
| Satellite West Junior High School @ PS 307 | n.a. | n.a. | 39 |
| Benjamin Banneker Academy | n.a. | 52 | 54 |
| Average IS Utilization Rate | 61% | 56% | 56% |

Table 3.2
Utilization of CSD 13 Elementary Schools: 2001-2002.

| School | Enrollment | Capacity | Over/Under | % Utilization |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| PS 3 Bedford Village School | 816 | 934 | -118 | 87% |
| PS 8 Robert Fulton School | 307 | 444 | -137 | 69 |
| PS 9 Teunis G. Bergen School | 824 | 1,131 | -307 | 73 |
| PS 11 Purvis. J. Behan School | 652 | 921 | -269 | 71 |
| PS 20 Clinton Hill School | 819 | 1,066 | -247 | 77 |
| PS 44 Marcus Garvey School | 850 | 963 | -113 | 88 |
| PS 46 Edward C. Blum School | 574 | 899 | -325 | 64 |
| PS 54 Samuel C. Barnes School | 637 | 775 | -138 | 82 |
| PS 56 Lewis Latimer School | 549 | 744 | -195 | 74 |
| PS 67 Charles A. Dorsey School | 764 | 1,083 | -319 | 71 |
| PS 93 William H. Prescott School | 617 | 819 | -202 | 75 |
| PS 93 Annex | 52 | 99 | -47 | 53 |
| PS 133 William A. Butler School | 382 | 394 | -12 | 97 |
| PS 256 Benjamin Banneker School | 716 | 962 | -246 | 74 |
| PS 270 DeKalb School | 399 | 683 | -284 | 58 |
| PS 282 Park Slope Elementary School | 648 | 1,079 | -431 | 60 |
| PS 287 Dr. Bailey K. Ashford School | 364 | 647 | -283 | 56 |
| PS 305 Dr. Peter Ray School | 664 | 953 | -289 | 70 |
| PS 307 Daniel H. Williams School | 505 | 740 | -235 | 68 |
| Total for PS Buildings | 11,342 | 15,773 | -4,431 | 72% |

Table 3.3
Utilization of CSD 13 Intermediate Schools: 2001-2002.

| School | Enrollment | Capacity | Over/Under | % Utilization |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| IS 113 Ronald Edmonds Learning Center | 766 | 1,332 | -566 | 58% |
| IS 117 Francis Scott Key Intermediate School | 608 | 1,050 | -442 | 58 |
| JHS 258 David Ruggles Junior High School | 723 | 1,272 | -549 | 57 |
| MS 266 Park Place Community Middle School | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Dr. Susan S. McKinney School for the Arts | 518 | 1,094 | -576 | 47 |
| Satellite West Junior High School @ PS 307 | 98 | 249 | -151 | 39 |
| Benjamin Banneker Academy | 612 | 1,128 | -516 | 54 |
| Total for IS Buildings | 3,350 | 6,024 | -2,674 | 56% |



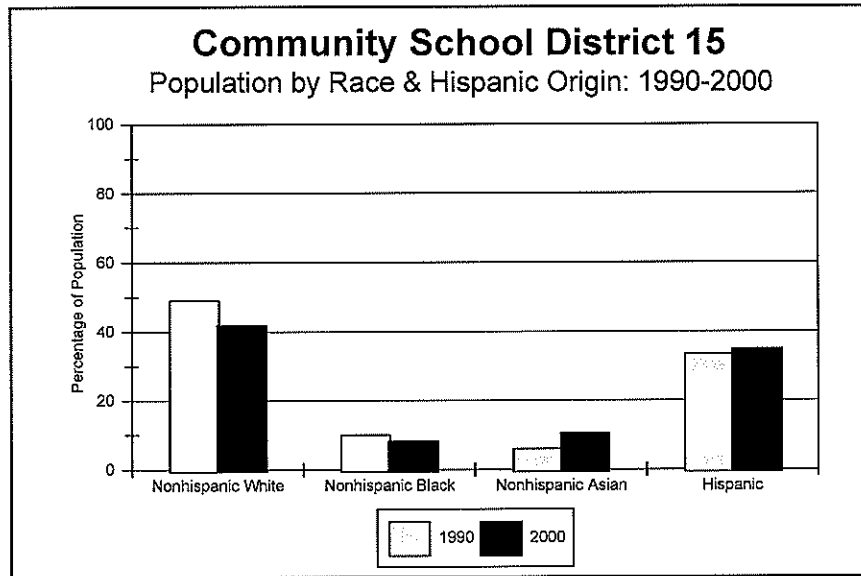
Community School District 15

Community School District 15 (in Instructional Division 8, Map 0.1) is located along the western edge of Brooklyn. Neighborhoods within CSD 15 include Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Red Hook, and Sunset Park. Brooklyn's Community District 7 is located within the boundaries of CSD 15, which also includes most of Community District 6 and portions of Community Districts 2 and 12 (Map 2.0).

Trends in Community School District 15

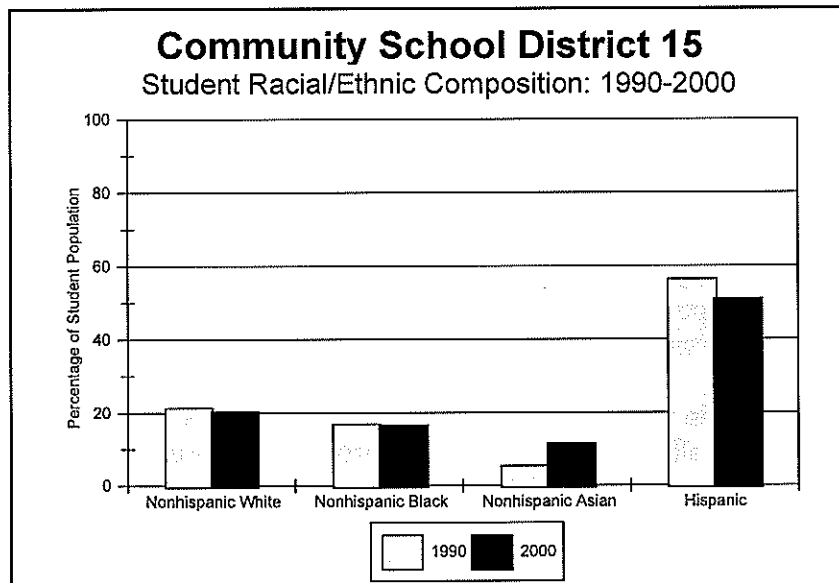
- The total population in CSD 15 was 240,581 in 2000, up from 219,373 in 1990, a 10% increase (Figure 2.0; Map 1.0).
- The district's under 18 population increased 12%, from 49,760 in 1990 to 55,818 in 2000, bringing it to 23% of the total population (Map 1.1).
- The district's total population in 2000 was 42% Nonhispanic White and 35% Hispanic; its student population, in contrast, was 20% Nonhispanic White and 51% Hispanic (Figures 5.0, 5.1).
- The annual number of resident births in CSD 15 declined from a peak of 4,327 in 1992 to 3,807 in 2000 (Figure 5.2).
- Enrollment in CSD 15 elementary and intermediate schools (including Pre-K) in October 2001 was 21,635, up slightly from 21,289 in 1990 (Figure 5.3).
- In the three-year period prior to March 2001, 1,471 immigrant students registered for Pre-K to 6th grade in CSD 15. The predominant countries of origin were Mexico, China, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, and Pakistan.
- Utilization rates in the district, which were below 100% in 1990, have remained relatively stable although a few schools are overcrowded. CSD 15 had 2,408 elementary school seats and 1,608 intermediate school seats available in 2001-2002 (Maps 1.2-1.4; Figure 5.4; Tables 5.0-5.3).
- In 2001-2002, 1,532 children were enrolled in CSD 15 Pre-K programs, 24% in non-Department of Education facilities.

Figure 5.0
Community School District 15: Population by Race & Hispanic Origin, 1990-2000.



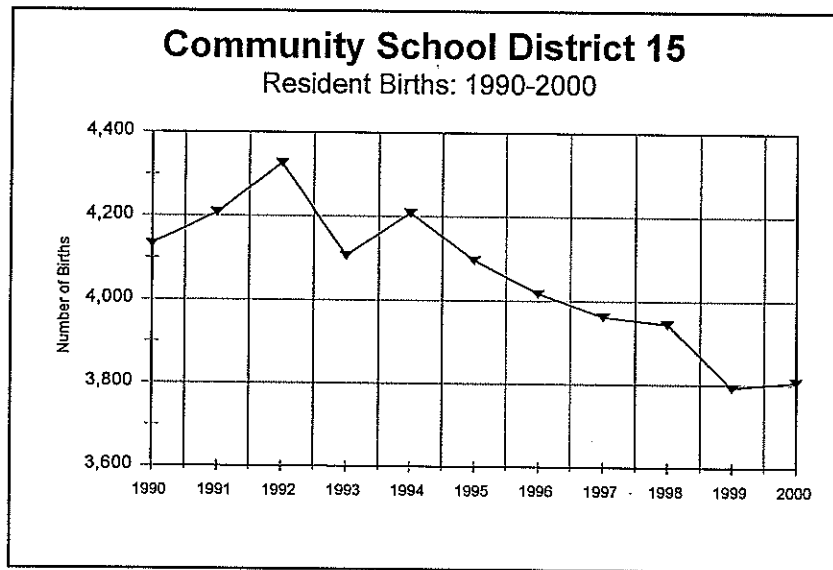
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000, PL94-171 Data File.

Figure 5.1
Community School District 15: Student Racial/Ethnic Composition, 1990-2000.



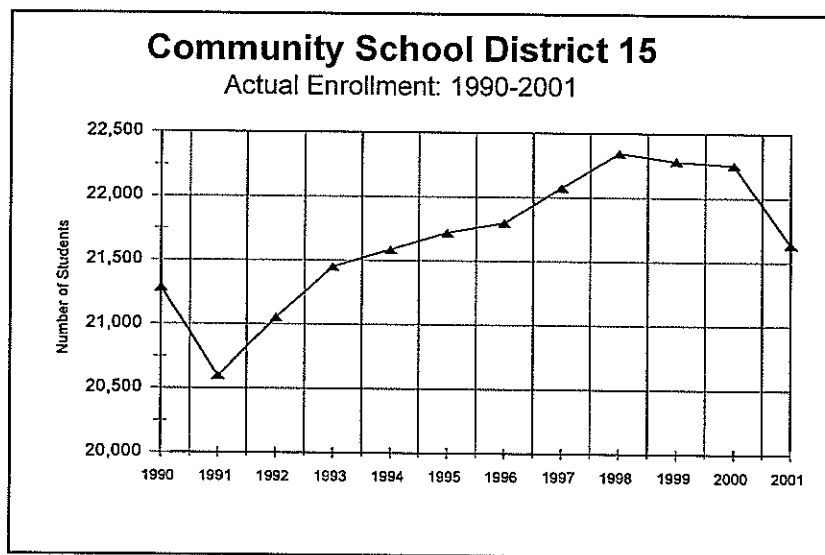
Source: NYC Department of Education, Pupil Ethnic Composition Report No. 88, October 1990 and October 2000.

Figure 5.2
Community School District 15: Resident Births, 1990-2000.



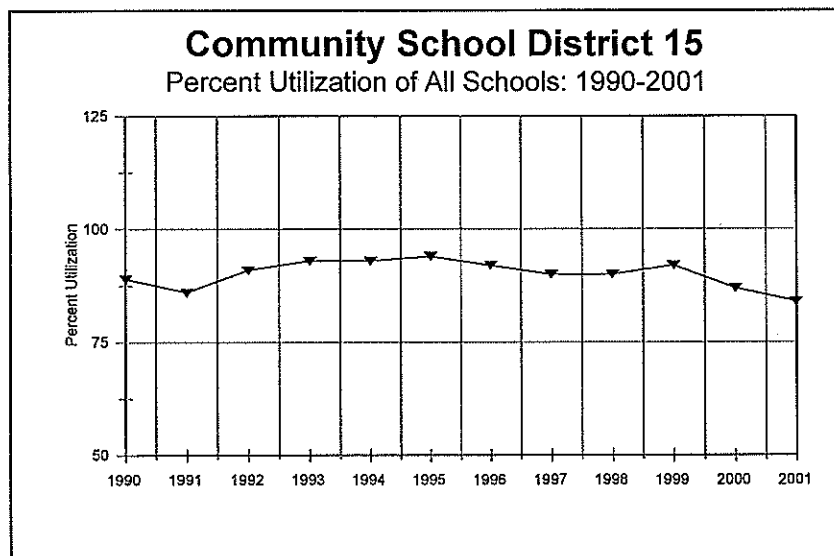
Source: NYC Department of Health, Vital Statistics, 1990-2000.

Figure 5.3
Community School District 15: Actual Enrollment, 1990-2001.



Source: NYC Department of Education *District Registers, 1990-1998* and *Audited and Adjusted Registers, 1999-2001*.

Figure 5.4
Community School District 15: Percent Utilization of All Schools, 1990-2001.



Source: NYC Department of Education, Utilization Profiles: Enrollment/Capacity/Utilization, 1990-2001.

Community School District 15

Elementary & Intermediate Schools

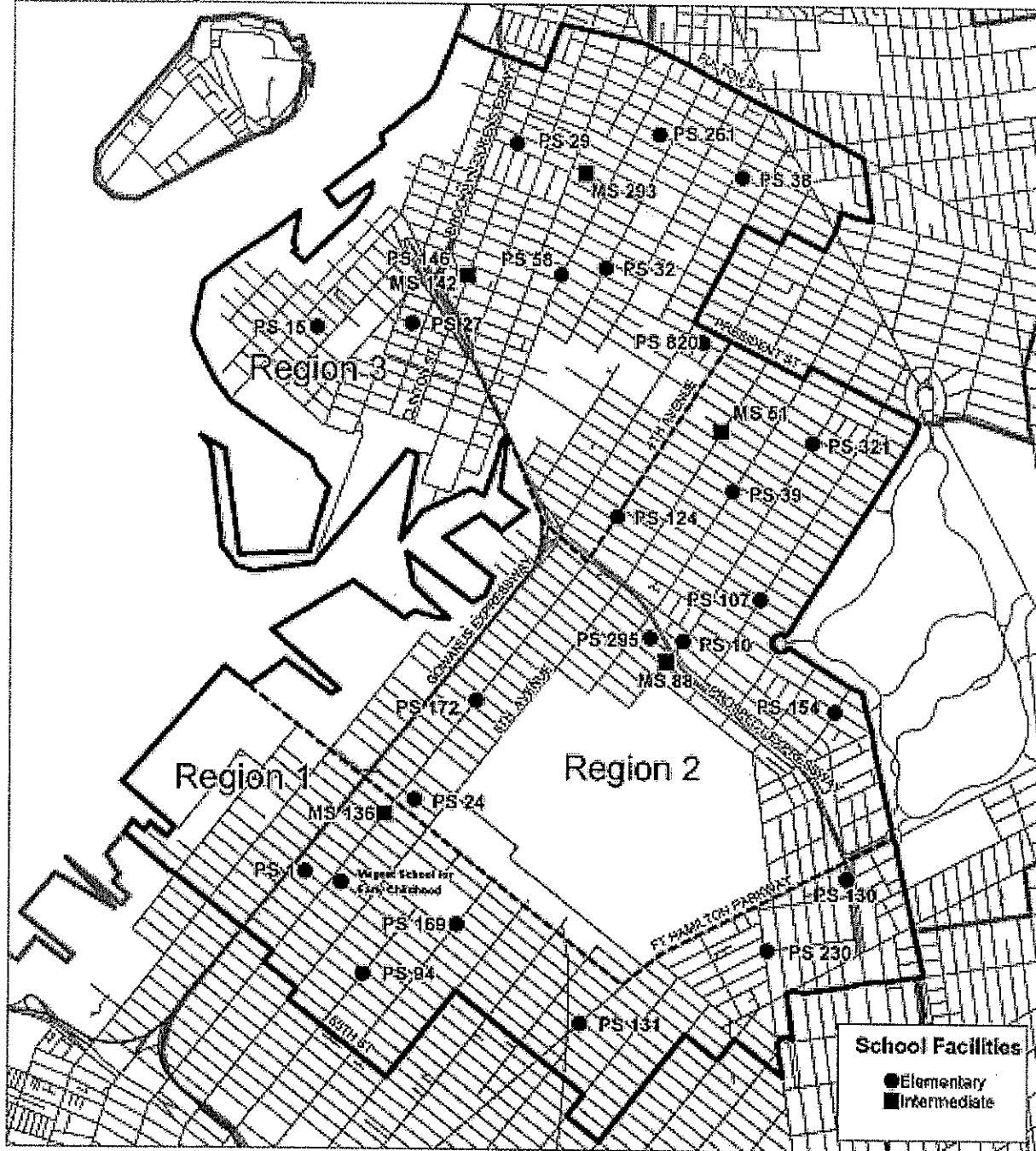


Table 5.0

Utilization Rates for CSD 15 Elementary Schools: 1995-1996, 2000-2001, 2001-2002.

| School | 1995-1996 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PS 1 The Bergen | 94 | 105% | 106% |
| PS 1 Annex | n.a. | 138 | 89 |
| PS 1 Mini School | 75 | 82 | 76 |
| PS 10 Magnet School Math, Science & Technology | 111 | 86 | 78 |
| PS 15 Patrick F. Daly School | 91 | 70 | 62 |
| PS 24 | n.a. | 108 | 117 |
| PS 24 @ MS 136 | n.a. | 90 | n.a. |
| PS 27 Agnes Y. Humphrey School | 51 | 66 | 67 |
| PS 29 John M. Harrigan School | 94 | 95 | 90 |
| PS 32 Samuel Mills Sprole | 76 | 50 | 54 |
| PS 32 Transportable | n.a. | 60 | 63 |
| PS 38 The Pacific School | 86 | 73 | 61 |
| PS 39 Henry Bristow School | 126 | 103 | 110 |
| PS 58 The Carroll | 83 | 67 | 65 |
| PS 94 The Longfellow School | 119 | 106 | 114 |
| PS 107 John W. Kimball Learning Center | 131 | 101 | 87 |
| PS 124 Silas B. Dutcher School | 156 | 152 | 157 |
| PS 130 The Parkside School | 132 | 99 | 93 |
| PS 131 Magnet School for Performing Arts | 110 | 103 | 99 |
| PS 146 Brooklyn New School @ MS 142 | 29 | 100 | 52 |
| PS 154 The Windsor | 112 | 94 | 91 |
| PS 169 The Sunset Park School | 108 | 98 | 96 |
| PS 172 Magnet School for Leadership in the 21 st Century | 151 | 116 | 114 |
| PS 230 Doris L. Cohen School | 129 | 93 | 73 |
| PS 230 Annex | n.a. | 98 | 98 |
| PS 230 Transportable | n.a. | 225 | n.a. |
| PS 261 Philip Livingston School | 97 | 92 | 85 |
| PS 295 | n.a. | 81 | 75 |
| PS 321 William Penn School | 119 | 111 | 101 |
| PS 321 Mini School | 99 | 64 | 78 |
| PS 820 The Children's School | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Magnet School for Early Childhood | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| New Voices School | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Average PS Utilization Rate | 100% | 89% | 87% |

Table 5.1

Utilization Rates for CSD 15 Intermediate Schools: 1995-1996, 2000-2001, 2001-2002.

| School | 1995-1996 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| The School for Leadership in the Environment @ PS 27 | n.a. | 31% | 35% |
| New Horizons School @ PS 32 | | 60 | 40 |
| The New Voices School of Academic & Creative Arts @ PS 146 | n.a. | n.a. | 52 |
| MS 51 W. Alexander Middle School | 115 | 109 | 103 |
| MS 88 Peter Rouget | 82 | 79 | 84 |
| 1. MS 136 Charles O. Dewey (District 85) | 94 | 62 | 77 |
| 2. The Sunset Park Prep School @ MS 136 | n.a. | 93 | 70 |
| 1. MS 142 Stranahan IS | 36% | 76% | 22 |
| 2. Brooklyn New School | n.a. | 100 | 95 |
| 3. Carroll Gardens Community School | n.a. | n.a. | 63 |
| MS 293 Campus Schools: | 62 | 72 | |
| 1. Brooklyn School for Global Studies (Middle Level) | n.a. | 49 | 104 |
| 2. School for International Studies (Middle Level) | n.a. | n.a. | 60 |
| Average IS Utilization Rate | 76% | 81% | 77% |

Table 5.2

Utilization of CSD 15 Elementary Schools: 2001-2002.

| School | Enrollment | Capacity | Over/Under | % Utilization |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| PS 1 The Bergen | 989 | 936 | 53 | 106% |
| PS 1 Annex | 91 | 102 | -11 | 89 |
| PS 1 Mini School | 133 | 175 | -42 | 76 |
| PS 10 Magnet School Math, Science & Technology | 679 | 868 | -189 | 78 |
| PS 15 Patrick F. Daly School | 531 | 860 | -329 | 62 |
| PS 24 | 837 | 714 | 123 | 117 |
| PS 24 @ MS 136 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| PS 27 Agnes Y. Humphrey School | 429 | 645 | -216 | 67 |
| PS 29 John M. Harrigan School | 797 | 885 | -88 | 90 |
| PS 32 Samuel Mills Sprole | 241 | 448 | -207 | 54 |
| PS 32 Transportable | 139 | 221 | -82 | 63 |
| PS 38 The Pacific School | 529 | 869 | -340 | 61 |
| PS 39 Henry Bristow School | 352 | 321 | 31 | 110 |
| PS 58 The Carroll | 530 | 811 | -281 | 65 |
| PS 94 The Longfellow School | 1,411 | 1,241 | 170 | 114 |
| PS 107 John W. Kimball Learning Center | 402 | 464 | -62 | 87 |
| PS 124 Silas B. Dutcher School | 530 | 337 | 193 | 157 |
| PS 130 The Parkside School | 598 | 646 | -48 | 93 |
| PS 131 Magnet School for Performing Arts | 950 | 959 | -9 | 99 |
| PS 146 Brooklyn New School @ MS 142 | 285 | 551 | -266 | 52 |
| PS 154 The Windsor | 391 | 429 | -38 | 91 |
| PS 169 The Sunset Park School | 1,235 | 1,282 | -47 | 96 |
| PS 172 Magnet School for Leadership in the 21 st Century | 555 | 487 | 68 | 114 |
| PS 230 Doris L. Cohen School | 589 | 807 | -218 | 73 |
| PS 230 Annex | 580 | 589 | -9 | 98 |
| PS 230 Transportable | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| PS 261 Philip Livingston School | 740 | 866 | -126 | 85 |
| PS 295 | 353 | 468 | -115 | 75 |
| PS 321 William Penn School | 1,048 | 1,037 | 11 | 101 |
| PS 321 Mini School | 229 | 293 | -64 | 78 |
| PS 820 The Children's School | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Magnet School for Early Childhood | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| New Voices School @ PS 295 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Total for PS Buildings | 16,467 | 18,875 | -2,408 | 87% |

Table 5.3

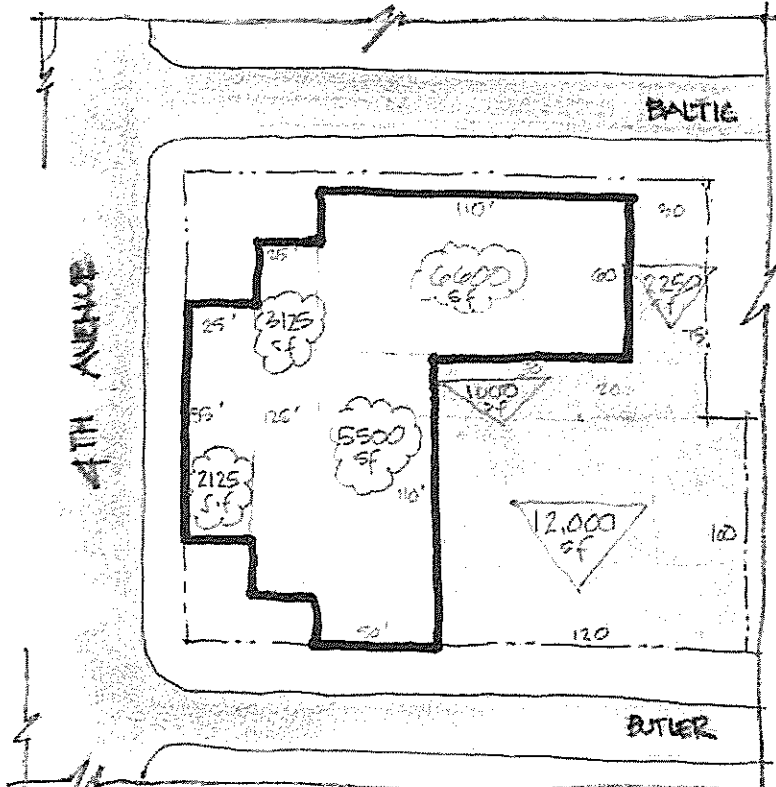
Utilization of CSD 15 Intermediate Schools: 2001-2002.

| School | Enrollment | Capacity | Over/Under | % Utilization |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| The School for Leadership in the Environment @ PS 27 | 76 | 219 | -143 | 35% |
| New Horizons School @ PS 32 | 112 | 277 | -165 | 40 |
| The New Voices School of Academic & Creative Arts @ PS 295 | 285 | 551 | -266 | 52 |
| MS 51 W. Alexander Middle School | 1,131 | 1,100 | 31 | 103 |
| MS 88 Peter Rouget | 1,083 | 1,282 | -199 | 84 |
| 1. MS 136 Charles O. Dewey (Dist. 85) | 651 | 842 | -191 | 77 |
| 2. The Sunset Park Prep School @ MS 136 | 175 | 251 | -76 | 70 |
| 1. MS 142 Stranahan IS | 93 | 418 | -325 | 22 |
| 2. Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies | 504 | 533 | -29 | 95 |
| 3. Carroll Gardens Community School | 327 | 518 | -191 | 63 |
| MS 293 Campus Schools: | | | | |
| 1. Brooklyn School for Global Studies (Middle Level) | 164 | 157 | 7 | 104 |
| 2. School for International Studies (Middle Level) | 469 | 781 | -312 | 60 |
| Total for IS Buildings (includes MS 136) | 5,272 | 6,850 | -1,608 | 77% |

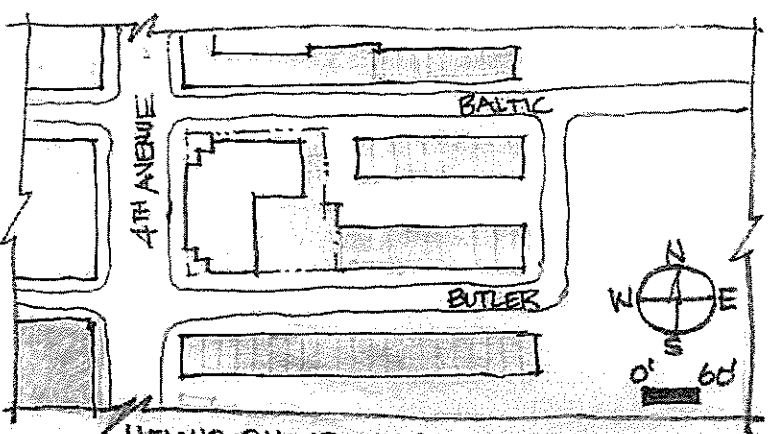
First Thoughts on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 Prepared by New York City School Authority
 Dated April 24, 2009

Description of the Proposed Action

The building square footages do not match the square footage shown on current floor plan



CSA'S SITE PLAN



NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT PLAN

Check of Square Footage in 4/29/09 SCA/NYDOE SEQR

① Building Footprint

$\Sigma \text{ } \odot = 17,350 \text{ sf.}$
 vs. $\ast (26,000) \text{ sf.} \ast$

discrepancy (8,650) sf
 Actual sf as drawn = $17,350 \times 4 = 69,400$
 Note: $121,240 / 17,350 = 7$ stories
 Greenspace

$\Sigma \Delta = 19,250 \text{ sf}$
 $\ast (3,000) \ast$ early childhood
 $\ast (12,500) \ast$ play area
 (250) sf

- Close enough for this state just done as a check to see if bldg. footprint difference showed up as reduction of green space
- Does not include decrease for community garden

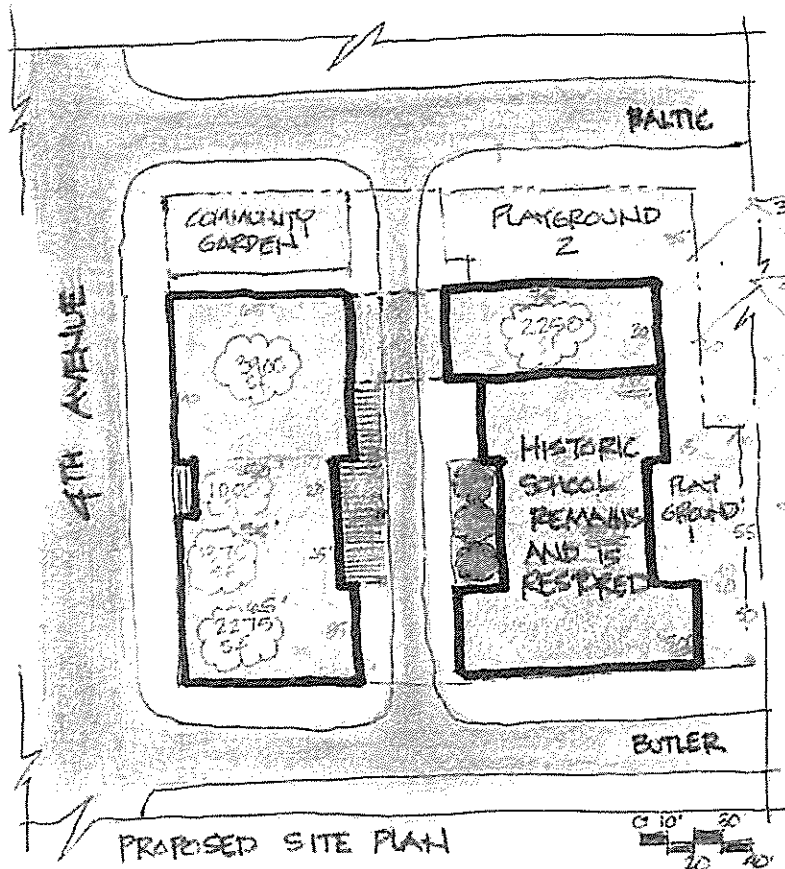
Proposed!

- 960 seats
- 5 story with basement
- 121,240 sf floor area
- 70-75' high e tallest elevation

Proposed schedule

- Complete new building in 2012
- keep children in existing school until new building is completed
- Demolish existing school after 2012
- \ast - Per 4/29/09 Report

An alternative plan preserves historic school, provides usable play areas for different age groups, provides covered bus access, avoids environmental litigation, and takes much less money and time to build:



Proposed Square Footage

① Building Footprint (New)
 $\Sigma = 10,080$

② Building Footprint (Existing)
 $\Sigma = 9,900$

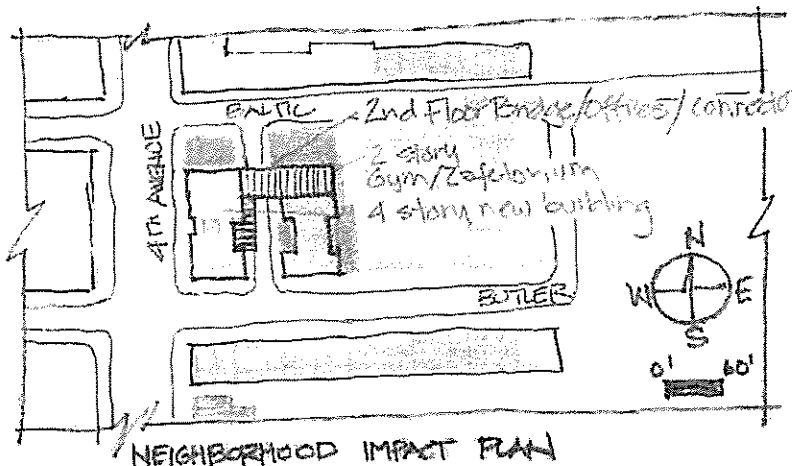
Note: Report quotes
 39,000 sf in
 Existing Building
 @ 3 1/2 stories
 50'-76' high

Greenspace

Note: this is actual
 greenspace that is
 suitable for play
 areas

- Community Garden
 is preserved
 (not included below)

$\Sigma \Delta = 6,950$
 + 1,000 sf landscape



Maximum Mass

Existing Bldg 39,000 sf
 New

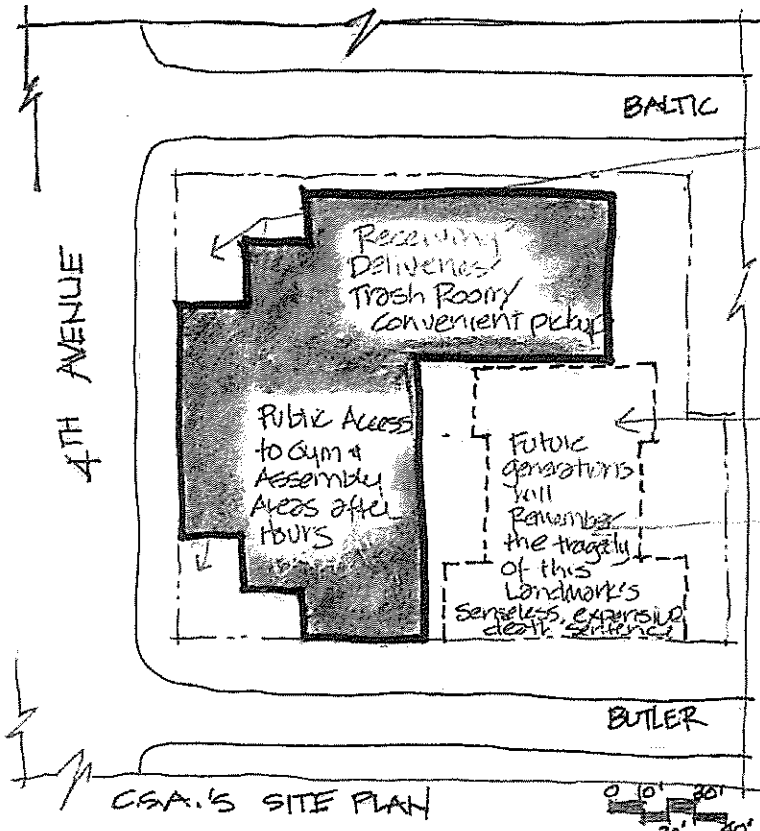
| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1st Floor | - 10,080 sf |
| 2nd Floor | - 10,900 sf |
| 3rd Floor | - 8,750 sf |
| 4th Floor | - 8,750 sf |
| Total | 77,480 sf |

Actual Usable
 s.f per
 CSA/NYCE
 drawings (69,400)

Note: some
 proposed sites
 based on the usability of their CSA!

"Potential Adverse Effects" that Require Further Study:

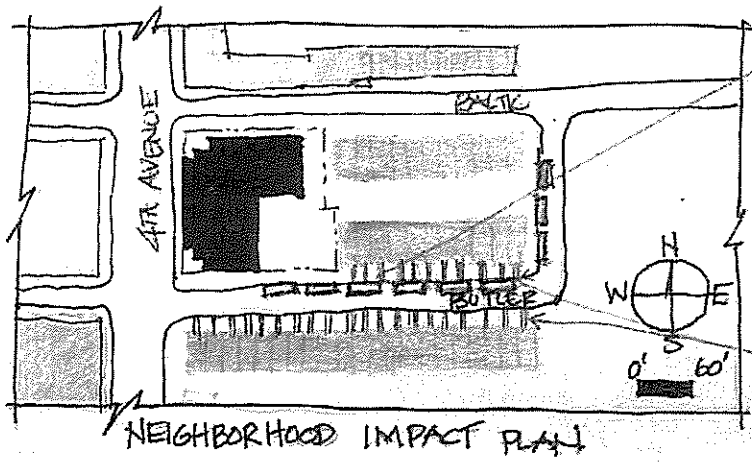
- Historic resources. The existing school is irreplaceable, a neighborhood landmark, and should be preserved and adaptively re-used
- Noise: SCA plan has all children in one outdoor area (used for all outdoor activities) with no buffers for neighbors. Alternative plan breaks play space into smaller age-appropriate area



Problems with CSA Plan

Wasted space @ corners will attract loitering and skateboarders
 All buildings on 4th Ave are built to lot line, not staggered

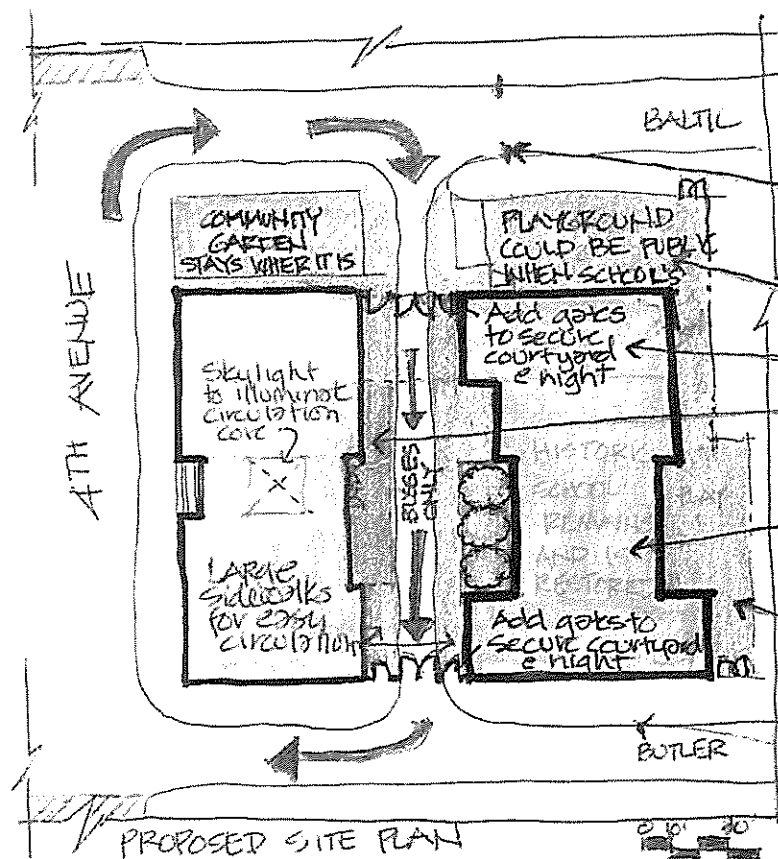
Destruction of Historic Landmark (disrespects neighborhood)
 Clearly, this is "staging area" for busses, putting all bus pick up/drop offs on Butler
 Very hazardous
 Look suspiciously like future parking lot



Currently, 3 busses routinely stack on Butler. Increasing enrollment 3x will require busses to stack all the way down Butler & around corner.

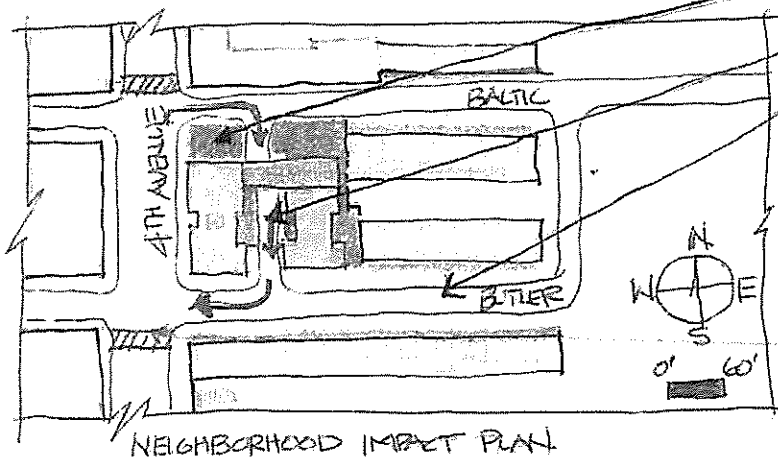
Noxious & unsafe
 All 20' wide +/- ROW housing has an 8' wide driveway. These are often blocked & drivers show frustration & reckless maneuvers

-Traffic and transportation: The current CSA plan will create very dangerous conditions for the children and neighbors. All busses must stack on Butler, blocking driveways, causing driver confusion, and forcing children to walk as much as a block in inclement weather. Proposed alternative plan provides "Bs Only" driveway with covered loading area and staging area that protects neighbors from noise and can be monitored by school staff



Better Proposal For
Child Safety
Traffic Safety

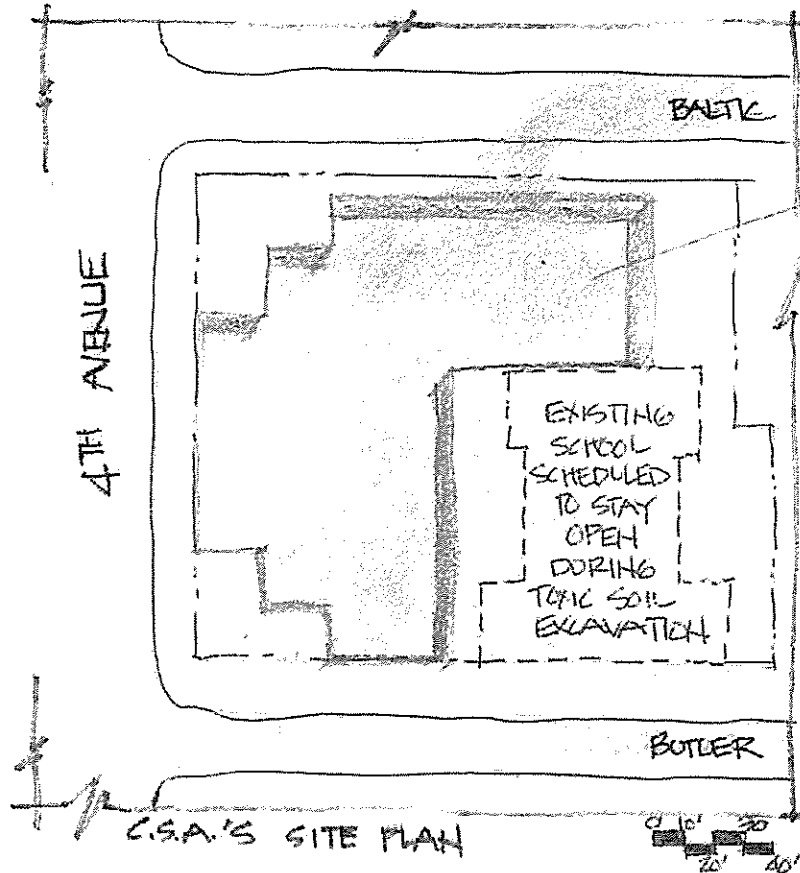
- Add signage "Local Traffic Only"
- Playground directly accessible from Gym/cafe/atrium
- Covered bus drop-off area to keep students protected from elements
- Irreplaceable historic Neighborhood landmark is preserved & restored
- Separate Play yards for younger & older children
Less noise
- Parent Pick up/drop off can occur completely separated from bus traffic



- Community Garden remains in same location
- Driveway for busses only
- Extremely dangerous stacked busses on Butler is eliminated.

Move crosswalks as shown to reduce bus/student danger area

-Soil and Groundwater conditions: The soil and groundwater are contaminated with known carcinogens. Construction methods using excavation for sub-grade areas should be avoided at all costs (because associated costs for unspecified "measures" will be HUGE if done correctly, and will present health risk to children and neighbors if not done correctly).

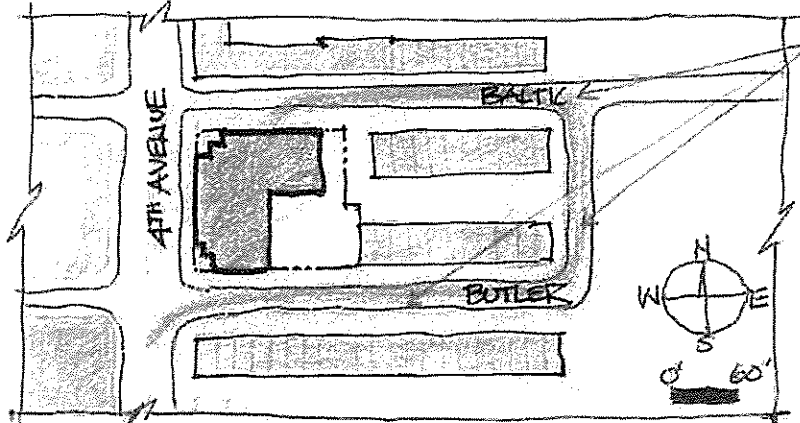


Hazardous Waste Issues w/CSA Plan

Basement is terrible idea for soils with this level of contamination

Will create 1
 17,350 sf (footprint)
 x 10' (min excavation depth)
 177,350 cubic feet of contaminated soil to be removed from site
 (= 6569 cubic yards)

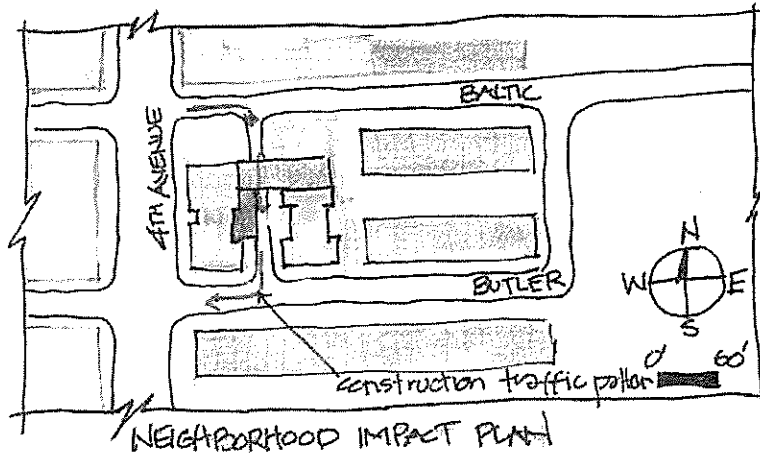
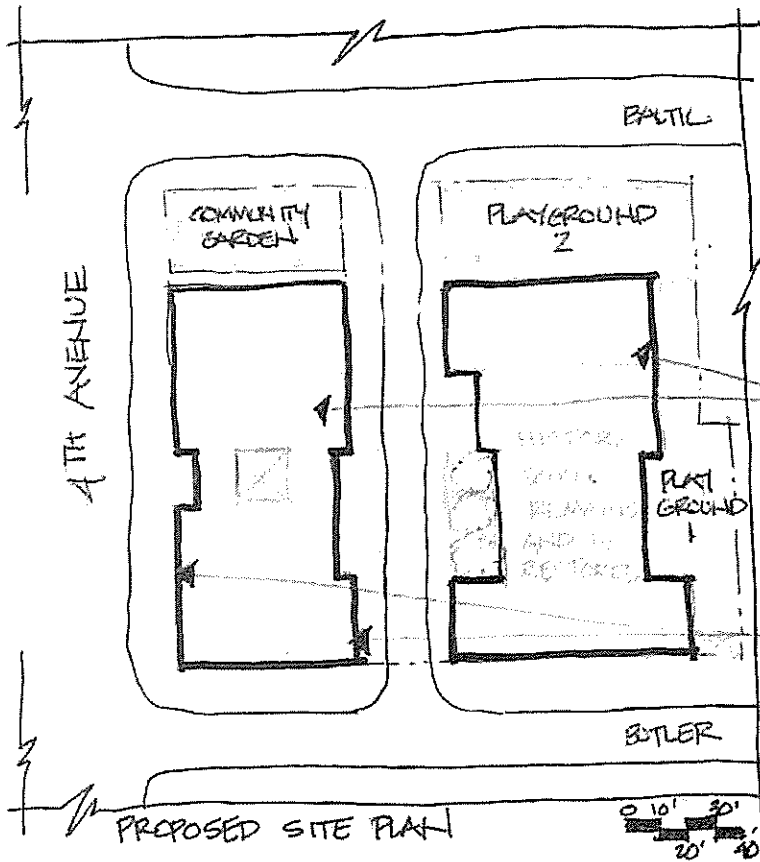
To make basement safe for habitation will cost ALOT. And is not necessary



Neighborhood streets will accumulate mud from construction vehicle tires. contaminated dust will circulate
 Dust from disturbed soil at construction site

OR

Pay a fortune for staff and water to hose off all vehicles. Don't waste money when it's so easily available



Hazardous Waste
Environmentally &
Economically
Logical Approach

- saves money
- protects neighbors & children
- reduces CSA's lead exposure

① Make first floor a low-ceilinged mechanical area (everything except air intake equipment) form "base"

② Use piers and/or grade beam to support structure

③ Second floor is only floor that needs to be same height in both buildings (for connecting bridge to gym/cafeteria)

④ Traffic pattern with bus driveway will eliminate mud on Bal tic & Butler

⑤ Not demolishing Historic School will eliminate dust contamination of neighborhood etc

Brooklyn PS 133 - Designed by CBJ Snyder

Opened in 1901, PS 133 is the oldest Snyder school in Brooklyn, along with three others from the same year. Snyder would go on to design close to 130 schools in Brooklyn, about 94 of which are still being used as schools. Because he had been designing buildings for Manhattan and the Bronx for nine years before the Consolidation of the Boroughs, PS 133 is about his 25th oldest-standing school. It's among the first schools to be designed with a gymnasium. PS 133 is Collegiate Gothic/Flemish Renaissance whereas the other three in Brooklyn from 1901 are more neo-Classical. It is one of the few strongly Collegiate Gothic schools in Brooklyn, along with Erasmus HS (a landmarked building) and PS 152 in Midwood. Snyder is known for having brought to primary and secondary schools the Collegiate Gothic style that was being used contemporaneously for colleges and universities such as the University of Chicago, West Point, and the University of Pennsylvania. PS 133 is stylistically unique – with no similar school in any other borough or in any other parts of Brooklyn.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has determined the school to be historically significant and therefore eligible for inclusion on the National Register (1) as a representative example of the large number of school buildings that were erected by New York City in the late nineteenth century to serve a booming immigrant population and (2) as an example of school architecture in New York City, with a distinctive façade featuring Flemish Renaissance Revival details and as an excellent example of the early work of C. B. J. Snyder.

It's a 4-story-with-basement, I-plan structure with a limestone base, beige brick upper stories, and white limestone and terra-cotta trim. The front elevation is divided into three

pavilions, each three bays wide, with stone label moldings over the windows and quoins defining the corners of the building and the central pavilion. The main entrance is crowned by a Tudor arch and elaborate carving in the spandrels; Tudor entrances and battlements in gated one-story limestone walls also mark access to the east and west side yards. The steeply pitched roof is notable for its picturesque effect created by various gabled dormers on the fourth floor and a prominent end chimney.

The Architect – Charles B.J. Snyder

Snyder is described by Yale University's Robert Stern as "a talented, historically overlooked architect" whose schools are "among the great glories of our city," "everyday masterpieces." Snyder's achievement transformed the educational look and feel of the city's public schools and influenced school design across the country.

Cooper-Union-trained Snyder was Superintendent of School Buildings for the Board of Education for 31 years, from 1891 till 1923. During those years which saw the highest immigration rates in the city's history and the consolidation of the boroughs, Snyder designed 400 public schools, about 260 of which still stand and about 230 still function as public schools.

When he joined the Board of Education in 1891, the existing schools were a microcosm of the Tammany-dominated ills of society as a whole, "dangerous to life and limb" (wrote social-reformer Jacob Riis). Snyder's schools included new features reformers were pushing for such as auditoriums with projection rooms and organs, space for public art, laboratories, vocational training facilities, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and roof playgrounds. The buildings were designed also to accommodate new after-school activities like recreation classes and evening lectures.

Part of the City Beautiful movement, Snyder built “people’s palaces” (Riis’ phrase), equally grand in tenement neighborhoods as in establishment areas. In styles like Beaux Arts, Flemish Renaissance, Italian Palazzo, and Collegiate Gothic, Snyder’s red- or sometimes tan-brick buildings with limestone trim and terracotta decoration often dwarf the surrounding structures. He used steel-framed construction to support huge banks of windows – literally a breath of fresh air for children living in tenements or coming from the older masonry schools. Snyder wanted teachers and students alike to have a building they enjoyed.

Responsive to teachers’ suggestions and to pedagogical and reform theories of the day, Snyder was concerned about good light in the classrooms, good ventilation, playspace for students, and the use of the school building by the community. Jacob Riis’ 1902 book *The Battle with the Slums* lauds the new type of school Snyder was creating and includes a picture of Snyder with the caption, “the man who builds our beautiful schools.” Riis writes that Snyder is “one of those rare men who open a window to the soul of the times,” that “where he found barracks, he’s leaving palaces to the people.”

Charles B. J. Snyder Buildings in New York City - DRAFT

| Overview 10/08 | Existing buildings | Existing additions to a pre- existing building | Destroyed buildings | Destroyed additions | Totals | % still standing | Still a public school | % still public schools |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Manhattan | 69 | 4 | 38 | 22 | 133 | 56% | 49 | 68% |
| Bronx | 45 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 61 | 75% | 43 | 93% |
| Brooklyn | 101 | 6 | 14 | 11 | 132 | 81% | 94 | 94% |
| Queens | 39 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 59 | 65% | 38 | 95% |
| Staten Island | 13 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 65% | 11 | 85% |
| Totals | 267 | 14 | 77 | 50 | 409 | 69% | 235 | 87% |

Historical designations

| | NRHP – National Register of Historic Places | LPC – Landmark Preservation Commission designation |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Manhattan | 9, 35a, 109, 157 | 9 (pending), 64, 67, 72A, 166, Stuyvesant, Wadleigh |
| Bronx | 11a, 17 (15) | 11a, 27, 31, Morris (15) |
| Brooklyn | Boys HS a, Girls HS a, Erasmus (5 pre-existing schools) | Boys a, Girls a, Erasmus (10 preexisting schools) |
| Queens | 66 | Newtown, Flushing, 66 (pending) |
| Staten Island | | Curtis, 28 (4 pre-existing schools) |
| Totals | 6 schools, 4 additions | 16 schools, 1 Annex, 4 additions |

An "a" indicates a Snyder addition to a preexisting school; an "A," a free-standing annex.

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P.01



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

Elliot Spitzer
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

April 30, 2007

Ross J. Holden
Vice President and General Counsel
New York City-School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101-3045

RE: Determination of National Register eligibility
P.S. 133
Brooklyn, Kings County
07PR02307

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
07 MAY - 7 PM 1:00
NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Dear Mr. Holden:

Thank you for the submission of materials concerning P.S. 133 at 375 Butler Street in Brooklyn, Kings County. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has reviewed the information in accordance with the provisions of Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

We have determined that the school meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Enclosed is a copy of the "Resource Evaluation" for the building. According to Kenrick Ou the proposed window replacement project for this school was suspended because the NYC Educational Construction Fund is currently evaluating proposals for redevelopment on the site. If any future projects are planned for the P.S. 133 property please consult with OPRHP at that time.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please call me at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3266.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Howe
Historic Preservation Specialist

cc: Kenrick Ou, NYCSCA

enc.: Resource Evaluation

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**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

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Elliot Spitzer
Governor
Carol Ash
Commissioner

RESOURCE EVALUATION

DATE: April 30, 2007

STAFF: Kathy Howe

PROPERTY: P.S. 133

MCD: Brooklyn

ADDRESS: 375 Butler Street

COUNTY: Kings County

PROJECT REF: 07 PR 02307

USN: 04701.016031

- I. Property is individually listed on SR/NR:
name of listing:
 - Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:
name of district:
 - II. Property meets eligibility criteria.
 - Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.
- Pre SRB: Post SRB: SRB date

Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

P.S. 133 at 375 Butler Street in Brooklyn is a four-story-with-basement, I-plan structure featuring a limestone base, beige brick upper stories, and white limestone and terra-cotta trim. The front elevation, facing onto Butler Street, is divided into three sections, each three bays wide. The main entrance, facing onto Butler Street, is crowned by a Tudor arch and elaborate carving in the spandrels (the original front doors have been replaced and the transoms windows removed and the area bricked in.) Access to east and west side yards of the school is through gated one-story limestone walls with Tudor entrances and battlements. The corners of the building and the central pavilion are defined by

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LEGAL DEPT

P.03

quoins. The window openings are topped with stone label moldings. The steeply pitched gabled roof is notable for its picturesque effect created by various gabled dormers on the fourth floor and a prominent end chimney.

Built ca. 1900, P.S. 133 building is historically significant under criterion A as a representative example of the large number of school buildings that were erected by New York City in the late nineteenth century to serve a booming immigrant population. The building is also significant under criterion C as an example of school architecture in New York City, with a distinctive facade featuring Flemish Renaissance Revival details. The building is an excellent example of the early work of C.B.J. Snyder, the architect who was responsible for a large number of New York City schools in the last years of the nineteenth century and first decades of the twentieth century.

If you have any questions concerning this Determination of Eligibility, please call Kathy Howe at (516) 237-8643, ext. 3266.

TOTAL P.03



Brownfields Briefs

Brownfields and Vapor Intrusion

by Lenny Siegel
August, 2005

Vapor intrusion, the emerging pathway now being investigated at sites across the country, is one of the most significant obstacles to the safe use of contaminated property. The science and regulatory framework for vapor intrusion has been developed for existing structures. Only recently has anyone begun to address redevelopment at sites likely to experience vapor intrusion.

Vapor intrusion is usually defined as the vertical migration of volatile subsurface contamination into buildings above. Where indoor toxic concentrations exceed health standards as well as ambient (outdoor) levels, mitigation is quickly put into place because the inhalation pathway is complete. It's not practical for residents, workers, or other building users to breathe substitute air.

Since the *Denver Post* ran a major series on vapor intrusion in January, 2002, regulatory agencies, responsible parties, affected communities, and all their consultants have been taking the vapor intrusion pathway seriously. Agencies have adopted protocols for predicting and measuring indoor air contamination. Mitigation systems, such as subslab ventilation, have been installed in hundreds, probably thousands of homes. At some sites, remedial programs have been altered to reduce or eliminate the sources responsible for indoor contamination.

A few state regulatory guidance documents now mention vapor intrusion and future development, but no agency—to our knowledge—has yet established a comprehensive approach as to where, when, and how to develop on property with shallow volatile contamination in groundwater or soil. Developers and property owners, as well as local officials, prospective residents, and other property users, face significant uncertainty.

Rising to the Surface

Volatile compounds in groundwater or soil exist as both liquids and vapors. The vapors fill microscopic pores in the soil, and their concentrations can be measured through soil-gas sampling. While groundwater contamination generally moves with the groundwater, forming elongated plumes, vapor-phase contamination spreads radially from the source, which can be the original contamination within the soil or an elongated plume of groundwater contamination.

Soil gas tends to rise, and if the contamination is near the surface, some of it is likely to be released at the surface. Many factors influence that process, including the type and concentration of the contamination, the make-up of the soil, and the presence of uncontaminated water near the surface. Organisms such as bacteria may break down the contaminants—particularly petroleum products—as they approach the surface.

Surface structures, including buildings and pavement, can influence the quantity and rate of vapor migration, by influencing both biodegradation and creating updrafts that pull the contamination up. Vertical vapor migration is often greater under structures than under open space.

Furthermore, like the air escaping from the puncture in a tire, soil vapor releases “find” holes—cracks in slabs, utility trenches, openings around pipes, etc.—in surface structures. As long as there is a negative pressure differential, the gases trapped beneath the entire structure will rise through such preferential pathways.*

To predict concentrations of indoor air contamination resulting from vapor intrusion, scientists have developed mathematical models, the most widely known of which is the Johnson-Ettinger model. The models attempt to calculate “alpha,” of the attenuation factor, named for the Greek letter α in the models’ mathematical formulas. Alpha represents the ratio of the concentration of indoor air contamination (due only to vapor intrusion) to the concentration of vapors in the soil below. Alpha is calculated from a number of variables, some of which can be measured at the site. These include soil types, depth to groundwater, and the physical properties of the specific volatile compounds. Alpha usually turns out to be about one one-thousandth (.001). That is, contaminants in indoor air are usually found somewhere around one one-thousandth the concentration of the same vapors in the soil beneath.

Where there are existing structures, those conducting vapor intrusion investigations generally use soil gas measurements to determine if and where to test the indoor air. They also use them to help distinguish between vapor intrusion and the same contaminants from other sources, such as outdoor air or household or commercial products. Residents and environmental activists are often concerned that investigators rely too much on the models; they are unwilling to accept that the air inside is clean unless it is actually sampled.

For redevelopment sites, there is usually no indoor air to test. If there are existing structures that are slated for demolition, sampling inside might give an indication of potential vapor intrusion for replacement structures, but that too is subject to significant variability. Therefore, the only way to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at most redevelopment sites, such as brownfields, is to measure as many of the variables in the Johnson-Ettinger (or similar) model as practical, and then use alpha to predict where, and how much vapor intrusion is likely to occur.

Most vapor intrusion sites with existing structures lie above shallow plumes of contaminated groundwater, which have migrated beneath the building in the years since the original release of contamination. However, at brownfields sites (including those recently redeveloped) the structures may be proposed to be built (or already sit) above source areas, areas of soil contamination that were polluted as the contamination originally leaked out and down through the soil. Thus, at redevelopment sites, vapor intrusion investigations must

* Conversely, as long as a structure maintains a positive pressure, gasses trapped beneath will not enter the structure. While this is an expensive way to solve a vapor intrusion problem alone, it often makes sense in commercial structures where positive pressure is used to conserve energy.

carefully determine the location of any such release and determine whether it has been cleaned up.

Since soil contamination and groundwater contamination often occur in the same areas, it sometimes takes additional investigation to determine whether soil gas concentrations result primarily from soil pollution or contaminants in the underlying groundwater. One approach is to measure the compound's soil gas concentrations at different depths. If the concentrations at a location are higher nearer the surface, that suggests that the location is an original source area. If the concentrations are lower nearer the surface, it's likely that the source is deeper—probably contaminated groundwater.

Decisions, Decisions

Continuing exposure to volatile organic compounds in the air we breathe poses a long-term health threat. There is a major scientific debate going on today (see below) over what levels pose a significant risk, but rarely do the levels of exposure found in vapor intrusion scenarios pose an acute—that is, immediate—risk.

Still, there is no established process for deciding when to build homes, schools, workplaces, or other structures above shallow sub-surface contamination. One of the reasons is that the environmental regulatory agencies—U.S. EPA and its state, territorial, and tribal counterparts—that normally supervise or even conduct major hazardous waste cleanups are not the entities that must approve development proposals. The regulators may impose, as part of a cleanup remedy subject to their jurisdiction, land use controls that limit what can be built or what types of additional design features are necessary for safe use of the new buildings. But because vapor intrusion is such a new concern, there is little history of such controls.

Usually, it's up to local governments to approve new construction, and their normal operations don't provide the tools to review the vapor intrusion potential. That is, the zoning, subdivision, site plan and architectural review, and building permit processes do not ask the vapor intrusion question. Only those jurisdictions where environmental review is required have an institutionalized way to evaluate and place conditions on development because of vapor intrusion concerns. For example, Mountain View, California used the California Environmental Quality Act to impose conditions on new housing construction on a parcel near an active vapor intrusion site.

Furthermore, most local governments lack the expertise to evaluate potential vapor intrusion construction proposals. That normally isn't their job. Again, Mountain View solved this problem by partnering with experts from U.S. EPA. EPA analyzed the developers' environmental data and documents for city officials.

Yet there are two important reasons why the potential for vapor intrusion should be evaluated early in the redevelopment process. First, it is easier to conduct subsurface sampling, to install remediation systems, or to implement mitigation before or during construction than conducting such responses after the fact. Second, once people move into the new development, many will respond to any toxic surprise, such as vapor intrusion, by contacting lawyers.

Five Steps

CPEO therefore recommends the following steps be incorporated into the approval process for any property known or suspected to contain volatile organic compounds in the shallow subsurface. To trigger this process, **environmental regulatory agencies**

should notify local planning jurisdictions of any such sites being addressed under their authority, and developers who discover shallow contamination during environmental site assessment should report it, both to local government and environmental regulatory agencies.

1. The potential for vapor intrusion should be fully evaluated before development is approved.
2. Cleanup remedies should be in place before construction begins.
3. Either accelerated remediation methods should be approved or the development should be moved or delayed.
4. Engineering controls should be required as a condition of development
5. Future property users should be notified of the vapor intrusion investigation and its results.

1. The potential for vapor intrusion should be fully evaluated before development is approved. While this may seem obvious, most of the local planning jurisdictions that review proposed developments are not even aware of the vapor intrusion pathway, let along the various tiered approaches for evaluating it. In addition to existing contamination on the property, the potential for inward migration of contaminated groundwater should be considered.

2. If, in the absence of engineering controls, vapor intrusion at unhealthy levels is likely to occur, then cleanup remedies should be in place before construction begins. Such remedies should be protected by institutional controls. That is, neither construction nor the new use should interfere with remedial progress. The key point here is the recognition that engineering controls are not as robust as removal or degradation of the pollutants.

3. Where necessary, engineering controls such as impermeable membranes, subslab ventilation systems, and positive air pressure (for commercial buildings) should be required as a condition of development. Evidence from the field suggests that such measures usually work in the short run, but not always. Therefore sampling is necessary to confirm that they are working as designed. Also, many such measures are susceptible to breakdown, so regular monitoring and contingency plans should accompany any engineering controls. Those requirements should be backed up by enforceable institutional controls. Since developers don't like to encumber their properties in this way, this provides an additional incentive for remediation.

Other design features may also be used to limit exposures. For example, agencies may require that there be no living space on the ground floor. However, one should be careful not to replace the risk of vapor intrusion with the release of contaminants from garages built directly under homes.

4. If engineering controls are likely to fail before cleanup remedies reduce residual contamination to a level at which vapor intrusion will not pose an unacceptable risk, then either accelerated remediation methods should be approved or the development should be moved or delayed. Where public health requires serious limits on development, regulators and local governments should resist the political and economic pressure to sweep vapor intrusion risks under the rug. But compromises are possible. There may be ways to significantly reduce risk simply by

changing the footprint of the proposed development. Note that in most cases, the vapor intrusion air standards for industrial and commercial structures are only about three times higher (less stringent) than for residential or unrestricted use, so simply restricting residential uses might not provide adequate protection.

5. Future owners, tenants, employees, students, and visitors should be notified of the vapor intrusion investigation and its results. Some states provide residential property buyers with notice of local contamination sites in the midst of the sale closure process. That's too late. Property users should receive enough notice so they can make informed decisions. For example, Mountain View recently required that *marketing* materials for new homes adjacent to a vapor intrusion site should include vapor intrusion warnings. If accurate warning is provided, then developers will have an additional reason to accelerate and intensify cleanup.

It's important, in devising any disclosure scheme, not to undermine the privacy of the owners or other residents and users of affected property. That is, property-specific notice should be given only when it helps a prospective buyer, employee, resident, etc. make judgments about the safety of buying or using the property.

Re-Openers

Disclosure that homes or other properties suffer vapor intrusion, or even that the vapor intrusion problem is suppressed with engineering controls, prompts immediate, intense concern among property owners. They face a double-whammy: potentially serious health problems if exposed to the contaminants; and a likely reduction (or diminished increase) in property value. Some people, more concerned about re-sale value, try to keep the bad news quiet. This is an argument, of course, for publicizing vapor intrusion threats before property transactions occur.

Still, there are many new homes and other buildings where developers completed projects based upon comfort letters or other assurances that no further cleanup would be required. Now—in New York, for example—regulators are re-visiting many such sites, requiring further investigation at supposedly finished sites. In such cases, the agencies that provided assurance need to check the fine print. If indeed, they gave overbroad assurances, then they need to seek funds elsewhere to re-investigate the site. CPEO firmly believes, however, that the public should not be subject to continuing vapor exposures—or even conditions which might lead to future exposures—simply because assurances were given. And if such promises were not made, then the developer unfortunately has to eat the additional expenses, unless it can recover costs from the responsible parties. To cushion the impact on developers yet ensure that residents are protected, CPEO believes that legislators and agencies should consider providing low-interest cleanup loans at sites where remediation is re-opened due to vapor intrusion.

Health Standards

It should be recognized there is significant uncertainty—or at least an argument between major polluters and environmental and public health advocates—about what constitutes an unacceptable level of exposure to volatile organic compounds in air. In 2001, U.S. EPA completed a draft Human Health Risk Assessment for TCE, one of the most common intruding vapors. That Assessment, if adopted, would translate into a health standard of .02 micrograms of TCE per cubic meter of air. Because in most urban areas, TCE in ambient air is about ten times that, somewhere around .2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the de facto

cleanup objective at most sites would be somewhere around that level (because outdoor air would recontaminate indoor air cleansed to a more stringent standard).

However, other federal agencies—the Energy and Defense Departments and NASA—as well as private polluters, objected to EPA's findings, so the four federal agencies sent the question of TCE toxicity to the National Academy of Sciences for re-review. It will be years before there is a new federal standard. If that new standard is protective for vulnerable populations such as young children—as the 2001 study suggested—then it is likely that the safety thresholds for other common volatile organic compounds, such as perchloroethylene and trichloroethane, will eventually be reduced as well. Meanwhile, most EPA regions and states with vapor intrusion programs are using 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or a higher number as their interim action level for TCE in residential air.

Developers, communities, and agencies are all faced with substantial uncertainty. CPEO believes vapor intrusion investigations should be conducted based upon the more protective numbers, using detection limits of about .02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. That way, if EPA's 2001 findings are upheld, there will be no need to re-open the investigations. Unless prohibitively expensive, cleanup targets should approach background air concentrations, to avoid the prospect of having to come back and re-remediate sites.

Finally, well conducted vapor intrusion investigations distinguish indoor sources—such as household products—from vapor intrusion. Neither developers nor responsible parties are expected to remove from the air contaminants released from household products or active industrial processes. However, since volatile organic compounds such as TCE and PCE do not occur naturally, it's important to determine if ambient levels are present due to vapor migration from the subsurface. While it might not be possible to clean indoor air below outdoor air levels, it may be possible, through additional source remediation over a wide area, to reduce the concentrations in outdoor air.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT
c/o PSC, 278-A Hope Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

Voice: 650-961-8918 or 650-969-1545 Fax: 650-961-8918 <cpeo@cpeo.org> <http://www.cpeo.org>



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

JOAN L. MILLMAN
Assemblywoman 52nd District

341 Smith Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
(718) 246-4889

CHAIR
Committee on Oversight, Analysis and
Investigation

COMMITTEES
Corporations
Education
Labor
Steering
Transportation

June 9, 2009

Chancellor Joel Klein
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

President and CEO Sharon Greenberger
School Construction Authority
IDCNY Center 1
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101-3045

Dear Chancellor Klein and President Greenberger,

I am writing in regards to the School Construction Authority's plan to demolish the current PS 133 in Brooklyn's District 13 and replace it with a larger and modern facility for the students of PS 133, District 75 students and District 15 students, in order to address overcrowding in District 15. While I applaud the Department of Education (DOE) and the School Construction Authority's (SCA) proactive response to overcrowding in our schools, I have received numerous complaints from community residents and parents about the absence of public input in this process and the lack of communication from DOE and SCA in response to questions from the community.

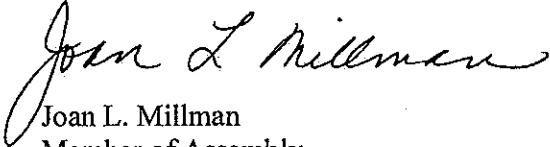
As the State Legislature prepares to address the future of mayoral control of public schools, the criticism most often heard is the lack of respect the Department of Education displays towards parents, educators and the community and the failure of the Department to actively solicit and truly listen to their input and needs. In the case of PS 133, the community has raised some serious concerns that have either been not fully addressed or outright dismissed by the SCA and DOE.

Of equal concern to me is the apparent disregard by the SCA for the historical nature of the current building. PS 133 was designed by Charles B. J. Snyder, whose work has been repeatedly recognized the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission for its cultural and architectural significance. Although this building has not been landmarked, 18 school buildings he designed throughout the city have been designated. The SCA has not adequately explained why this

building must be torn down, especially since it appears to be structurally sound. The SCA has also not shown that it is more cost-effective to replace this historical building with an entirely new educational complex than it is to conduct a complete rehabilitation of the building and construct a new building for District 15 students on the land adjacent to the school.

Thank you for your attention to this important and time-sensitive matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan L. Millman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joan L. Millman
Member of Assembly



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Election Law

COMMITTEES
Corporations
Education
Labor
Steering
Transportation

JOAN L. MILLMAN
Assemblywoman 52nd District

341 Smith Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
(718) 246-4889

June 18, 2009

Commissioner Pete Grannis
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Commissioner Grannis,

On May 2, the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) announced a Notice of Acceptance of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement associated with proposed construction of a new school facility on the grounds of the existing PS 133 school facility in Brooklyn.

Residents of the homes adjacent to the proposed construction site reviewed the DEIS and were immediately concerned about statements that the excavated soil would be treated as hazardous waste. In addition, the DEIS contained references to ground water contamination. The residents requested copies of the reports referenced in the DEIS, but as of today, the SCA has not released them. Last Friday, the community was informed by SCA that the reports in question must be obtained through a FOIL request. Since the final approval of the project by the City Council is less than two weeks away, this appears to be a delaying tactic by the SCA. Given that over 900 children will be attending school on this site, the lack of cooperation by the SCA is disturbing.

The residents also contacted Lenny Siegel, Executive Director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight (CPEO). Mr. Siegel's organization provides technical assistance and training to communities where brownfield activities are planned or underway and includes a focus on vapor intrusion from volatile organic compounds (VOC). Mr. Siegel has worked on New York City school construction sites in the Bronx and Queens and has collaborated with the SCA and has also worked on mapping vapor intrusions in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. He reviewed the Hazardous Material section of the PS 133 DEIS and met with community members earlier this week. Subsequent to that meeting, he sent the following correspondence to community members:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Butler School (page 3-77) states: "Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) were detected at concentrations exceeding their respective New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Air Guidance Values (AGVs) in one soil vapor sample.... These compounds are migrating

onto the site from an off-site source based on contaminant distribution." On the following page it says, "A sub-slab depressurization system and a vapor barrier would be made part of the new school construction to prevent the potential migration of organic vapors, if any, into the proposed school building."

Such a depressurization system is a necessary, but insufficient consequence of the soil vapor results. As at the Mott Haven Campus (South Bronx) and Info Tech High School (Long Island City), the discovery of a volatile organic compound plume (such as TCE or PCE) under a school site should trigger full characterization, remedy evaluation, remedy implementation, and long-term site management. This should be done before construction, both to protect the building's occupants (students, faculty, and staff) and because construction could interfere with investigation and cleanup. As at the other sites, it should be done under the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is state (DEC and DOH) policy that mitigation (depressurization) is not enough. Cleanup is required at such sites.

If the existing school is retained, it should probably have sub-slab depressurization, and homes to the east of the school may require their own systems. Vapor intrusion is a continuous, completed pathway that increases the risk of cancer and other diseases even at low concentrations.

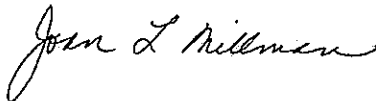
As you suggest, the first step should be to evaluate existing data, such as the information in the documents cited in the DEIS. I would happy to do a quick review of the vapor intrusion risk if you are able to obtain copies of the documents.

Consequently, I am requesting your assistance in developing a process for full characterization, remedy evaluation and implementation, and long-term site management at the school. While I do not understand why SCA has not contacted your office on this matter, the existing situation appears to warrant your department's review. This is an issue of great concern to my constituents, who are anxious to have the site properly evaluated prior to the finalization of construction planning.

This issue takes on a special urgency because SCA will be seeking approval to develop the site at a June 24 meeting of the New York City Council, less than two weeks from now. SCA has also announced plans to begin the demolition of the current building as early as July of this year.

While I am aware that your office has many demands, I hope you will give this matter your immediate attention. I regret the short notice, but the review timetable has not been one of my making.

Sincerely,



Joan L. Millman
Member of Assembly

Letter from Lenny Siegel, Center for Public Environmental Oversight,
following June 10 community discussion about interpreting the DEIS

From: lennysiegel@gmail.com
Reply-to: lsiegel@cpeo.org
To: SAvery9823@aol.com
CC: Nelsonp@assembly.state.ny.us, Cally670@aol.com, MdelaUz@fifthave.org,
mjtaranto5@hotmail.com
Sent: 6/10/2009 11:32:52 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Fwd: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

SJ,

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Butler School (page 3-77) states:
"Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) were detected at concentrations exceeding their respective New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Air Guidance Values (AGVs) in one soil vapor sample.... These compounds are migrating onto the site from an off-site source based on contaminant distribution." On the following page it says, "A sub-slab depressurization system and a vapor barrier would be made part of the new school construction to prevent the potential migration of organic vapors, if any, into the proposed school building."

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If the existing school is retained, it should probably have sub-slab depressurization, and homes to the east of the school may require their own systems. Vapor intrusion is a continuous, completed pathway that increases the risk of cancer and other diseases even at low concentrations.

As you suggest, the first step should be to evaluate existing data, such as the information in the documents cited in the DEIS. I would happy to do a quick review of the vapor intrusion risk if you are able to obtain copies of the documents.

Lenny

Lenny Siegel
Executive Director, Center for Public Environmental Oversight
a project of the Pacific Studies Center
278-A Hope St., Mountain View, CA 94041
Voice: 650/961-8918 or 650/969-1545
Fax: 650/961-8918
<lsiegel@cpeo.org>
<http://www.cpeo.org>

Letter from Lenny Siegel, Center for Public Environmental Oversight,
following June 10 community discussion about interpreting the DEIS

From: lennysiegel@gmail.com
Reply-to: lsiegel@cpeo.org
To: SAvery9823@aol.com
CC: Nelsonp@assembly.state.ny.us, Cally670@aol.com, MdelaUz@fifthave.org,
mjtaranto5@hotmail.com
Sent: 6/10/2009 11:32:52 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Fwd: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

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Lenny

Lenny Siegel
Executive Director, Center for Public Environmental Oversight
a project of the Pacific Studies Center
278-A Hope St., Mountain View, CA 94041
Voice: 650/961-8918 or 650/969-1545
Fax: 650/961-8918
<lsiegel@cpeo.org>
<http://www.cpeo.org>

Correspondence with SCA re Request for information on Environmental Site Assessment Documents

From: SAvery9823
To: knight@nycsca.org, alynn@nyccsa.org
Sent: 5/23/2009 12:46:59 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

To: Adam Lynn, Operations Manager –SCA

Yvette Knight, Community Liaison – SCA

Re: PS 133 DEIS information request

Dear Adam and Yvette:

I am sending this request to both of you because I am not sure of the fastest way to bring this matter to the attention of the SCA and you both have offered to be of assistance to community residents who will be affected by the proposed construction.

The DEIS for the PS 133 project states: "A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was completed by Tetra Tech EC, Inc. (TtEC) on behalf of the SCA in June 2008."

It also says: "a Phase II Environmental Site Investigation (ESI) was completed in November and December 2008 to assess the RECs."

And "A supplemental Phase II ESI was conducted in December 2008, to delineate lead contamination."

As a person who lives less than half a block from the proposed construction site, and behalf of other neighbors, I am requesting copies of these and any other related environmental documents. If they can be returned via email, that would be terrific.

We would appreciate the earliest possible receipt of these documents. Would you be good enough to advise me by return e-mail as to how soon we can expect them?

Thank you very much for your assistance.

SJ Avery

392 Butler Street

Savery9823@aol.com

718 857 4551

Original Message

From: KNIGHT, YVETTE <YKNIGHT@nycsca.org>
To: SAvery9823@aol.com <SAvery9823@aol.com>
Cc: LYNN, ADAM <ALYNN@nycsca.org>; MALEY, FRED <FMALEY@nycsca.org>
Sent: Thu, 28 May 2009 2:33 pm
Subject: RE: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

Dear Ms. Avery:

We have received your request and we will look into getting the information to you as soon as possible.

Let me know of any other questions.

Yvette Knight

Project Support Manager

NYC School Construction Authority

30-30 Thomson Avenue

Long Island City, NY 11101

P 718-472-8199

C 347-245-8937

email: yknight@nycsca.org

From: SAvery9823
To: YKNIGHT@nycsca.org
Sent: 5/28/2009 3:08:59 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

Thank you very much - obviously, the sooner the better - and as soon as you have an idea of the time frame, I would appreciate it if you could share that with me.
Sincerely

SJ Avery

From: SAvery9823@aol.com [mailto:SAvery9823@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 11:10 PM
To: KNIGHT, YVETTE; alynn@nycsca.org
Cc: rbashner@beckerglynn.com; districtmanager@brooklyncb6.org
Subject: Fwd: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

Dear Ms Knight:

I am disappointed that, after all the promises of cooperation, including those restated at the Community Board meeting on Monday night, we have still not heard from you regarding the status of the material we requested. As reference points for the SCA's DIES, the reports cannot possibly be so hard to find - I hope we are not experiencing continued stonewalling on the part of the SCA.

I look forward to receiving the requested material by the end of the week.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

SJ Avery

From: YKNIGHT@nycsca.org
To: SAvery9823@aol.com, alynn@nyccsa.org
CC: rbashner@beckerglynn.com, districtmanager@brooklyncb6.org, FMALEY@nycsca.org, KOU@NYCSCA.ORG
Sent: 5/11/2009 5:53:21 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: RE: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

Dear Ms. Avery:

I appreciate your disappointment in the lack of response related to your request.

Please note that I have been and I will continue to work to get you the information.

I will have it to you as soon I am able to release it to you.

Let me know of any other questions or concerns.

Yvette Knight

Project Support Manager

NYC School Construction Authority

30-30 Thomson Avenue

Long Island City, NY 11101

P: 718-472-8199

C: 347-245-8937

email:yknight@nycsca.org

From: YKNIGHT@nycsca.org
To: SAvery9823@aol.com
CC: rbashner@beckerglynn.com, districtmanager@brooklyncb6.org, FMALEY@nycsca.org, MSZABAGA@nycsca.org, ALYNN@nycsca.org
Sent: 5/12/2009 5:10:28 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: RE: Request for information related to PS 133 DEIS

Dear Ms. Avery:

The SCA legal department has instructed to have you make the request under FOIL – Freedom of Information Law.

FOIL requires that the request be:

- In writing (not email) – there is a need for an original signature
- Specific about the information/document you are seeking

Send the request to: Michael Szabaga

School Construction Authority

Corporate Secretary

3030 Thomson Ave – 4th fl

Long Island City, NY 11101

Let me know of any other questions.

Yvette Knight

Project Support Manager

NYC School Construction Authority

60-30 Thomson Avenue

Long Island City, NY 11101

P: 718-472-8199

C: 347-245-8937

email: yknight@nycsca.org

November 9, 2008 New York Times

City Is Cited for Insufficient Safeguards at School Campus Being Built on Brownfield

By MIREYA NAVARRO

New York City officials violated state environmental law when they began building a school complex on a contaminated site in the South Bronx without first coming up with a plan to ensure that students and the public would not be exposed to pollutants in the future, a state judge has ruled.

The decision came in response to a lawsuit filed in 2007 by a group of parents and community leaders trying to force the School Construction Authority to conduct a more comprehensive environmental review for the multischool campus, which is still under construction in Mott Haven in the South Bronx.

The suit accused the city of going ahead with the project without a plan to monitor air quality and check for other environmental problems after the city cleaned up the site -- a 6.6-acre parcel that once contained a railyard, a laundry and a plant that made gas from coal. The school agency eventually came up with a plan, which is now under review by the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

City officials said on Friday that the court ruling would not derail construction of the Mott Haven school campus, a complex of four secondary schools and athletic facilities scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

The plaintiffs' lawyers said they hoped to meet with the city to discuss the judge's order, which requires the construction authority to submit a supplemental environmental impact statement laying out its plan for long-term monitoring.

The plaintiffs' lawyers said the ruling could set a precedent for future construction of schools on brownfields, polluted sites that Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has singled out for cleanups and redevelopment because they are among the last parcels of vacant land in the city.

"It puts the School Construction Authority on notice that they would be breaking the law if they don't put forth a detailed monitoring plan before the City Council approves the site," said Dave Palmer, the lawyer who handled the suit, filed by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

The ruling was handed down on Oct. 16 by Acting Justice Patricia Anne Williams of State Supreme Court in the Bronx, and the plaintiffs planned to announce it on Monday.

Carrie Noteboom, a senior counsel with the city's Law Department, said city officials disagreed with the decision and were weighing their options. She said the school construction agency had provided enough information at the outset about how the site would be monitored over time to fully comply with the law, even if it had not produced a detailed plan.

Ms. Noteboom said it was more practical to come up with a plan after a cleanup had started so that the plan "can take into account the actual conditions at the site after the cleanup is done." The cleanup at the Mott Haven site ended in October 2007.

But Mr. Palmer countered that an early plan is crucial, because an assessment of the needs and the cost of monitoring may persuade city officials to modify cleanup plans or look for another site. "If the City Council has the information up front, they are in a better position to demand improvements on cleanups before they say yes to a site," he said.

In her decision, Justice Williams agreed, and said the city agency had failed to take "a hard look" at the long-term risks at the Mott Haven site.

D. Lee Ezell, chairwoman of Bronx Community Board 4 and a member of the Bronx Committee for Toxic Free Schools, on whose behalf the suit was filed, said she felt vindicated.

"What's at stake here is life," she said. "There are possible dangers here and you have to protect the people who use this facility."

As it tries to ease overcrowding, the School Construction Authority has also leased buildings on contaminated property to turn into new schools. Problems have arisen on sites like the Information Technology High School in Long Island City, Queens, where increased levels of contamination were found in the soil beneath the school after it opened in 2003.

Margie Feinberg, a Department of Education spokeswoman, said a vapor extraction system had been installed and the site was being monitored.

568 Barbara Cowan barbaracowan9101@earthlink.net

569 PHYLLIS YAMPOLSKY PARTAGE@EARTHLINK.NET

PEOPLE WHO DESERVE AN AUTHORITATIVE POSITION ARE
THOSE WITH THE INTELLIGENCE TO RESPECT THE
EXPERTISE OF THOSE WHO BEAR AUTHORITY IN A FIELDS
THEY DO NOT. PLEASE DO NOT CONTINUE THE OBSOLETE
SYSTEM OF ALLOWING PEOPLE WHO KNOW NOT ABOUT
AESTHETICS, OR THE SOCIAL, HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND
EVEN PYSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF SMASHING UP THE
TREASURES OF OUR LANDSCAPE TO CONTINUE
ENEDUCATED DESTRUCTION

570 Wes Haynes whaynes01@earthlink.net

571 Elizabeth Adam hansiadam@hotmail.com

572 Alan Ginsberg alanginsberg@hotmail.com

573 I fiorella Scrivo@aol.com

574 Robin Weil robinweil@earthlink.net

575 Christine Hunter, AIA chrisarch@aol.com

576 Josh Galiley arborpatrol@gmail.com

577 Alison Galiley a.lyn.gal@gmail.com

578 Kurt Hirschberg Hirschberg@jhpokorny.com

579 Michael McLeod mclaudius1@netzero.com

580 Meredith Whittaker meredith.meredith@gmail.com

581 Maggi-Meg Reed maggimegreed@aol.com

582 Anita Rundles anitarundles@gmail.com

583 Mark Chalfin mchlf@aol.com

584 Dr. Gerard R. Wolfe DrGerard9@aol.com

585 Paul Palazzo paul@historicfortgreene.org

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 535 Elsa Chen | elsa.chen@gmail.com | |
| 536 Karen McMullen | karnc101@ail.com | |
| 537 Simona Kwon | simona.kwon@yahoo.com | |
| 538 Amy Downs | Telephones@aol.com | |
| 539 Catherine Smith | csmith@vcs-nyc.org | |
| 540 Diane Blair | dblairst2@comcast.net | |
| 541 Joe Chiplock | chipwich4@earthlink.net | |
| 542 Barry Lewis | info@barrylewis.org | |
| 543 Salvatore Lentini | mandarins@mindspring.com | |
| 544 Reno Dakota | rendak@optonline.net | NYC seems to be striving to become a very ugly place. replacing fine, old buildings with disposable, ill-planned, ugly clutter. This building must stay, and NYC government needs to show leadership with respect to communities and the beautiful structures that make this city worthy of being our home. |
| 545 Aaron Sosnick | aaronsosnick@alum.mit.edu | Government bodies need to be sensitive to historic buildings and work for preservation! |
| 546 Sarah Gallagher | SWGall@nyc.rr.com | When will we learn the lesson: Our architectural heritage is irreplaceable? |
| 547 John Antonides | john.antonides@brooklynmuseum.org | |
| 548 Marge Miller | margemillr@aol.com | Please preserve this unique structure in our neighborhood and make simple, less invasive, positive, appropriate changes to the building and immediate surrounding area. |
| 549 Maria Ausherman | maushe1841@hotmail.com | |
| 550 Alison Ullrich | alison.ullrich@gmail.com | |
| 551 David A. Korman | davkor@gmail.com | |
| 552 Rebekah Meeks | rmmeeks@gmail.com | Preserve historic architecture it is our heritage as a community, city, and nation. |
| 553 Edward K. Eacker | eeacker@wbmelvin.com | |
| 554 George Locker | glocker@mindspring.com | |
| 555 Jeremy Woodoff | JWoodoff@nyc.rr.com | |
| 556 Donna Travers | DTravers1@aol.com | This is an outrage! We must not allow one more historic building in our neighborhood to be destroyed. |
| 557 George Y. Bramwell | george9337@yahoo.com | |
| 558 Suzanne Dickerson | shdickerson@hotmail.com | |
| 559 Ila Horvath | lilacsmail@yahoo.com | |
| 560 Susan Tunick | pstunick@worldnet.att.net | |
| 561 Allison Cannarsa | alcannarsa@gmail.com | |
| 562 Jane Cowan | jane.cowan@verizon.net | |
| 563 Teryl Phelan | phelansfutures@nyc.rr.com | |
| 564 Linda Jones | linda.jones33@gmail.com | All Snyder schools should be designated. The SCA should find another way. |
| 565 Cathy Wassilyenko | newyorkrescue@yahoo.com | What a privilege for children to be surrounded by the historic halls of past generations! The Bloomberg administration continues to obliterate our treasures with its scorched earth policy and a total lack of aesthetic and moral responsibility! |
| 566 Ellen Imbimbo | ellen4t@verizon.net | We must protect and preserve our heritage! |
| 567 John Kriskiewicz | NYCHistorian@att.net | In 2009, in NYC, it is hard to believe that we have to make the case to the city council that on historic, architectural, cultural, and environmental grounds ... preserving and incorporating this handsome, historic structure in to a state of the art school is the right thing to do. What is really going on??? |

506 Dora Naughton dora_naughton@hotmail.com

507 Rachel Castro Rachelcastro7@hotmail.com

Please save this beautiful building. It is across the street from my house and between the construction and extra busses that are soon to follow, my quiet block will no longer be such a wonderful place to live!

508 Curtis Owens curt100546@aol.com

509 Khem Irby kdi812@msn.com

Please do not destroy our landmark building. Work with the community.

510 denise morales rootbeer521@aol.com

511 Leo J Blackman AIA leo@leoblackman.com

The SCA/DOE plan to replace a beautiful 1901 CBJ Snyder gothic-style school in Park Slope with a new much-larger building to house two separate schools is thoughtless. Since the trend city-wide is to break down bigger school buildings into smaller units (and the existing one is presently not fully used) this makes no planning sense. Since the building has high ceilings and large windows, and is built of better stuff than a new building would, and represents a huge amount of embodied energy, it is environmentally reprehensible. Since I have actually designed a successful addition to an even older (1885) former public school " for less money than the SCA spends I speak from experience.

512 Alberto Quinones ajquinones@gmail.com

513 Darin Curts darin@leoblackman.com

514 Mark J. Krayenhoff, AIA, LEEP AP mark@aabronson.com

515 Kenneth Monteiro kennethmonteiro@hotmail.com

516 G. DeRosa gaandr@aol.com

517 Bridget Potter bridgetpotter@gmail.com

518 Patricia Castellon pcastellon@allen-killocyne.com

519 Jean Campbell winfreycampell@optonline.net

This building and the lovely garden are part of the Park Slope community that need to be preserved. Do not destroy.

520 G Caroddo gcaroddo@gmail.com

Save this beautiful community garden...4th avenue and Park Slope certainly need it.

521 Derek Larson dereklarson@verizon.net

522 Matthew Dionne mdionne@polshek.com

523 Jonathan A. Scelsa jonathan.scelsa@gmail.com

524 Brenda Leff brendaleff@gmail.com

525 Kate Lattin Klattin@sco.org

526 Stace Moye stazio_m@yahoo.com

527 Andrew Draper apdraper2000@optonline.net

As a former DOE teacher and current parent of two elementary-age children, I object to the process by which the SCA proposal was developed, as well as the intended product of two schools intended for different districts and different student populations within the same building.

528 Carolyn Straub cstraub@bbbarch.com

529 Isabella DeAngelis ldeangelis@mac.com

530 James Seger jdseger@gmail.com

531 Eliza Frecon elizafrecon@yahoo.com

532 Hilary J Beattie hilaryjbeattie@gmail.com

To demolish one of the very few interesting and historic buildings on 4th Avenue would be an outrageous act of vandalism.

533 Isabel Spencer isabel@aol.com

534 sheila stanger bubbiesheila@verizon.net

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 472 Helen Mangione | hbmanyee@yahoo.com | Please do not destroy our history. C.B.J. Snyder has been recognized as an important and innovative architect whose buildings deserve to be preserved for generation to generation. |
| 473 aurora zinder | alona5555@hotmail.com | we have to learn a lesson by now: why to lament destroyed past . better to safe and appreciated now and preserve for the future. |
| 474 Jill Vickers | jvickers@gmavt.net | Take the long view please with regard to this landmark school. |
| 475 Barbara Russiello | brussiel@wiley.com | Park Slope has drawn so many families because it is not dull or homogenous in its buildings. In these tight economic times, it would be worth recycling a beautiful building for modern use. |
| 476 Carol Wierzbicki | carol.wierzbicki@gmail.com | |
| 477 Aaron Charlop-Powers | thelastcp@gmail.com | Figure this out, do not demolish this school! |
| 478 christine tomaszewski | christine.tomaszewski@gmail.com | |
| 479 Ruth Falbel | munch2key@aol.com | |
| 480 renee fields | rbettybop@nyc.rr.com | why are we tearing old buildings down just to make work? |
| 481 Arthur Castle | castam@verizon.net | Why destroy a noble historic structure, only to be replaced by yet another drab and characterless piece of "contemporary " construction? What message does this send to the young about the value of history and the ethic of conservation? |
| 482 Jacoby Ballard | jacoby.ballard@yahoo.com | This is abhorrent-did you ask the surrounding neighborhood what they wanted? Did you consult with the many community garden members? New is not better! New construction usually deteriorates faster and is less sturdy. Save the old! |
| 483 James Russiello | thehamperbin@gmail.com | |
| 484 Susan Diamond | susandiamondforward@gmail.com | Please save this historic landmark structure. |
| 485 Margo Collett | margocollett@hotmail.com | |
| 486 Jennifer Wah | jjwah@comcast.net | |
| 487 Jill Rapaport | jillsr@aol.com | |
| 488 Susan Kranberg | susan@simplesolutionsny.com | |
| 489 David Abbey | Daveabbey@aol.com | |
| 490 Jeff Seifer | jseifer01@gmail.com | |
| 491 Elaine M King | emking83@hotmail.com | |
| 492 Michelle Velasco | indaymitz@gmail.com | |
| 493 Isabel Sanchez Sachs | ias5555@yahoo.com | There has to be a better solution.... |
| 494 robert wolfe | lobo4124@webtv.net | |
| 495 Cynthia S. LaValle | cslmc@optonline.net | |
| 496 Edward E. Skeffington, Jr. | ted@bayouconstructors.com | |
| 497 Kathryn Leahy | kated75@yahoo.com | |
| 498 Patrick Leahy | pasl28@yahoo.com | |
| 499 Ron LaValle | rlav@optonline.net | |
| 500 BARBARA WITHERS | bawithers@verizon.net | |
| 501 Belle Baxter | sailibrarian@gmail.com | We are just beginning to appreciate the contributions of CBJ Snyder to the NYC school system. The SCA should acknowledge its heritage and keep this building. |
| 502 Alan Siege | alan.siege@sbmc.biz | I wholeheartedly request that the demolition be stopped. |
| 503 Anita S. Kasen | akasen@nyc.rr.com | |
| 504 Elizabeth York | lizpaints@gmail.com | Please respect and preserve this beautiful building! |
| 505 Patricia McGann | mcgann8@msn.com | |

433 Tom Bauso tbauso@earthlink.net
434 Angela davis72@aol.com
435 Benjamin Starr Benstarr@yahoo.com
436 Joyce Zonana joyce.zonana@gmail.com
437 Jeff Prant jeffprant@mindspring.com
438 Theresa Torres teeteethree@yahoo.com
439 Kathy Smith wt.smith@snet.net
440 Alyce FH Kaufman faigle52@yahoo.com
441 Arlo Paust parlop@yahoo.com
442 David Sawyer david.sawyer@att.net

443 Katie & Joe Fishman kdfishman@nyc.rr.com
444 Miriam Kaplan kaplan_m_c@hotmail.com
445 Justin Ferate JFerate_Tours@yahoo.com

446 Mary Jean Babic mj@mjbabic.com
447 Andrea Coyle of East Village History Project Andrea@east-village.com
448 R. H. Ehrlich hirschehr@aol.com

449 Carrie Gmundsen carriegee@earthlink.net
450 Rosa Bogulavsky rbogulavsky@hotmail.com
451 Adrienne Holderith aaholderith@aol.com
452 Pamela Berg pru315@aol.com
453 ESGordon esgordon@hotmail.com
454 Eric K. Washington erikeith@aol.com
455 Judith Wolfe judylobo@nyc.rr.com
456 Martin Shore martyshore@manhattanwalks.com

457 Rosemary Goldford rgoldford@gmail.com
458 Roger Teeling rogereteeling@yahoo.com
459 Charles T James heyjamzee@verizon.net
460 Natasha Roemer Natasha.roemer@verizon.net

461 Lee Sanford leesanford@yahoo.com
462 Ann B. Selin a.selin@yahoo.com

463 Devera E. Witkin devera@witkin.org
464 Michael Witkin michael@witkin.org
465 Renee Green izrenee@aol.com
466 Judy Polczer jpolczer@aol.com
467 Barbara Van Buren bvanburen@wsfssh.org
468 Stephen Schneider szs412@gmail.com
469 Liza Whiting liza_whiting@glic.com
470 Catherine Fredman catfred@aol.com
471 Martin Oppenheim MOppenheim1@nyc.rr.com

The job of government is to listen to the will of the people!
Keep architectural beauty alive.
save the old school, with the high ceilings and beautiful architecture.
Posterity will thank you for this

CBJ Snyder schools are wonderfully designed structures! Please save this beautiful school!
It is beyond me what other building could offer the neighborhood (indeed the city) the utility and beauty that this one does.

Viva La Snyder!

Tearing down this Snyder school building makes no sense. It is the architecture of our city and its gardens which insure the quality of our lives. We must look upon beauty, the continuity of exemplary architecture through time, or our souls shrivel up and our children have no sense of history.

I implore you to designate the Snyder School in Brooklyn a landmark building and DO NOT DESTROY IT. We are losing our cultural heritage on a daily basis. Please save this Gothic like beautiful school!!!!

My old school PS 170, Jamaica NY was torn down in 1970

397 Madeline Rhum
398 drmaddytps@gmail.com
dave.paco.abraham@gmail.com

399 dave.paco.abraham@gmail.com

400 Robert Underwood
401 Melea Seward
402 David Alquist
403 Daniela Erie
404 Melissa Caruso
405 Jerome Heinzen
runderwood5@gmail.com
melea@meleaseward.com
f00nt@yahoo.com
dany.erie@gmx.net
Lissamdc@earthlink.net
jekl490@aol.com

Save P.S.133!

The building is of obvious historic value. It should be updated and maintained, not demolished. The garden should be preserved as well.

406 Charlotte Miller
407 Deborah Romano
408 Devanie Jackson
409 Elisabeth Elkind
410 Jean Arrington
charmill@gmail.com
romanod@mindspring.com
devaniejackson@msn.com
ehelkind@yahoo.com
jean.arrington@gmail.com

The school is an education in itself. Renovate and reuse.

This is the oldest school in Brooklyn designed by the visionary, innovative public-school architect, Charles B. J. Snyder. It is unique, significant, and visually stunning.

411 Iori Jorgensen
412 Anna Antoniak
413 Herb Solomon
414 Louise Bauso
415 Deborah Meier
416 Geoffrey Colon
417 Leslie Jenkins
lori.jorgensen@yahoo.com
amantoniak@yahoo.com
Solo374@aol.com
idbauso@hotmail.com
Deborah.Meier@gmail.com
djgeoffe@gmail.com
jenkinslss@aol.com

This is a structure with great historic value to both the DOE and the nation. It should be preserved and rehabilitated, not destroyed. It is a very beautiful building. It can be used indefinitely at perhaps a much lower cost than demolition and new construction. It is visible from my house and has always been my favorite building in the neighborhood.

418 Teresa M. Peters
419 Ash Meer
terryptrs@yahoo.com
ashmeer@mac.com

Save and renovate

I have lived in the neighborhood for nearly 10 years, and also send my children to school in the area. I would hope that the city would help us to preserve the character of the neighborhood, rather than gutting it.

420 Luci Westphal
421 Owen Taylor
422 Ida Assefa
423 Beth Knowlton
425 Sally Smith
ghwpeople@gmail.com
owen@justfood.org
ida.assefa@yale.edu
bj@cbltd.com
salsmith5@earthlink.net

Such a huge project is not sustainable in our already stressed neighborhood. Also, the plan for two different, separate schools representing different racial and economic make-ups is an extremely bad model.

426 Emma Zurer
427 Steven L. Soleo
428 Stephanie Smith
ezurer@gmail.com
steve.soleo@gmail.com
stephanielpc@gmail.com

Please make sure that community concerns, as well as architectural and environmental issues are given the attention they warrant. Community gardens are valuable in NYC.

429 Deborah Knight
430 Ian Hart
431 Deborah Edwards-Anderson
432 Elliott LeClaire
diknight@msn.com
ian@ianhartart.com
debbie_ed@yahoo.com
pacifiedfacade@yahoo.com

364 Alyson Metzger alymetz@verizon.net
 365 Nina Schmir tisenyc@yahoo.com
 366 Suzanne Nicoletti-Krase suzannenk@aol.com

367 Brian M. Kenny brikenny@hotmail.com
 368 ben shechter laurart3@aol.com
 369 Elizabeth Hallett eahallett@verizon.net
 370 Sally OConnell ssoc112@gmail.com
 371 Kevin OConnell kdoc412@gmail.com
 372 R.A. McBride photo@rebeccamcbride.com

373 teresa byrne tbyrne@dfarchs.com
 374 mc monicav68@optonline.net
 375 Heather Hamilton hamilton@portnoff.com
 376 john Mason masonrowan@gmail.com
 377 bette blank bette17@pipeline.com
 378 Lucy Rumack lrumack@gmail.com
 379 Bernard Galiley berniethecuda@verizon.net

380 Rita Cavanagh vilorijo@optonline.net
 381 George Kendall Shaw kendallshaw@aol.com
 382 Donald G Doe dondoe@earthlink.net

383 Cecilia Whittaker-Doe 706degraw@earthlink.net
 384 Michael Kleinsteuber mkleinsteuber@juno.com

385 David Krasnow dhk.211@gmail.com
 386 Arthur Bell adeanbell@aol.com
 387 John Casson jjcasson@verizon.net

388 Darrin M. VonStein dvonarch@aol.com
 389 Eilen Bilofsky ebb@afb.net
 390 Gloria Brandman gbran289@aol.com

391 Marie Nachsin marie.nachsin@verizon.net

392 Elaine Donlin edonlin@earthlink.net

393 Elizabeth Peters eliz_peters@earthlink.net
 394 Moraima Suarez moraima48@earthlink.net
 395 Sarah Brash sarah.brash@verizon.net

It important to preserve our historic old buildings for future generations. Do not demolish this school.

this building is the most important building in the area. It sets a mood and style that counters all the crappy high rise "Box" construction going on near this school. It is a beautiful building to gaze at and is needed!

All of you - do something right for a change. Keep this beautiful school, teach children respect for place and architecture. Stop ruining our neighborhoods.

I think that it would be a disgrace to destroy this handsome historic building in order to construct a school that architecturally will undoubtedly clash with the more than a century old homes in Park Slope. Why not construct an addition to that blends in with the existing school architecturally and then renovate the existing school. This will provide the additional schoolrooms that the community needs and provide a structure that will not scar the appearance of our unique neighborhood.

There must be meaningful community and parent and teacher input into any restructuring of this school. Additionally, equity and integration must result if a new school is developed on this site.

Any action on part of this city that hides behind far off meetings which are not advertised so the inhabitants involved are not brought into the planning stages reflect the hiding of uneasy actions. We have rules about these changes, abide by them or quit them.

332 Mary-Jordon Boler mjboler@wbmelvin.com

North Park Slope is one of the consistently historical and beautiful neighborhoods in the city, and this must be maintained. I thought we were beyond the years of tearing down well constructed and significant buildings worth to make room for new, 25-year buildings. Park Slope is NOT that kind of neighborhood. There must be another way.

333 Mitchell Grubler mitchellgrubler@yahoo.com

334 David Trachtenberg djustint@aol.com
335 Emma Malina sweet_emmas@yahoo.com

Please save this amazing structure. If we keep demolishing historical properties New York will one day be one giant ubiquitous box of cheap floor to ceiling windows. We need to preserve history - especially for our children.

336 Anne Hinsman anne.hinsman@gmail.com
337 Michelle de la Uz mdelauz@fifthave.org
338 Priya Dieterich priyad413@gmail.com
339 Susan Draper sh35@nyu.edu
340 Rebecca Foster rebecca@waltzing.org
341 Susan Draper sh35@nyu.edu
342 Teresa Johnson michterr0@yahoo.com

This proposed demolition seems to be the result of a rushed and ill considered process.

343 Miranda Purves mpurves@hfmus.com

Preservation is progress. Please properly preserve this beautiful building. Students deserve to be in a beautiful space, built in an era of resource wealth. Put that money towards updating education methods instead of downgrading to a charmless new building that will be off gassing pollutants into classrooms for years to come.

344 M. Liu mlisaliu@gmail.com
345 Deena burjorjee dburjorjee@axsall.com
346 Ken Baer hungryhiker@aol.com
347 Victor Smith vicable@earthlink.net
348 Phyllis Wrynn peacenow17@earthlink.net

349 Johanna Clearfield fieldjo@aol.com
350 Elizabeth Solomon e.brooklyn@yahoo.com
351 Sharon Kraus Sharon5554@aol.com
352 Gilly Youner gilly.youner@kbanyc.com
353 Andrew Gitzy agitzy@earthlink.net
354 Alison Griffiths alison.griffiths@baruch.cuny.edu

community involvement is KEY

355 Robert Jacobson rvj_43@verizon.net
356 Lauren Belfer lbelfer@hdc.org
357 Marc Garstein garstein@warrenlewis.com

358 Adrienne Snow amc195@hotmail.com
359 Marc Garstein garstein@warrenlewis.com

360 Jonathan Lief jflief@aol.com
361 Anita Brandariz Anna12lago16@aol.com
362 francesca zaccheo franzac59@gmail.com
363 phyllis yampolsky partage@earthlink.net

people in misplaced authority who are culturally and aesthetically, and even socially uneducated must must must respect themselves enough to recognize that they should listen to those who know more, in the field in which their intelligence allows them to recognize their deficiency, than they do

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>309 Michael Perlman, Four Borough Preservation Alliance Queens VP & Bd of Dir</p> | <p>unlockthevault@hotmail.com</p> | <p>This is a historic landmark in every sense of the word. It has been designed by a renown architect (other such buildings of his designated an Individual Landmark), exhibits superb Gothic craftsmanship, and has served generation upon generation. By students witnessing the destruction of their school, they are also witnessing the destruction of the very history the Bd of Ed requires teachers to teach to their students, which is ironic. Landmarks Preservation Commission: Designate this remarkably intact historic school ASAP, and School Construction Authority: Build a historically-sensitive addition and expansion to the existing gem, without sacrificing much yard space. Preserving and adaptively reusing historic buildings is one of the best means of "going green." Hear the concerns of your constituency, Mayor Bloomberg, and side with the citizens.</p> |
| <p>310 Sybil Young 311 Lise Brenner</p> | <p>sybilyoung@gmail.com brennerl@hotmail.com</p> | <p>stop destroying the greatest city in the world. People LIVE here.</p> |
| <p>312 Jean Standish</p> | <p>jestandish@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Another building of special significance under threat. PS 133 is a remarkable, historic structure. To demolish this building would be a crime. Please preserve this important structure.</p> |
| <p>314 John Hutchinson 315 Sandra Roff</p> | <p>hutchscout@gmail.com Sandra.Roff@baruch.cuny.edu</p> | |
| <p>316 Raul Rothblatt 317 Maria Ausherman 318 Jackie Killian</p> | <p>rrothblatt@gmail.com maushe1841@hotmail.com jackiekillian@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Please respect alternative solutions to demolition, and consider how removing this building will affect the character of the neighborhood. It has been with the neighborhood for nearly 100 years!</p> |
| <p>319 Gregory Hubbard 320 Edward Kirkland</p> | <p>gkhubbard@metrocast.net ch.kirk@verizon.net</p> | <p>It would be a disaster to demolish this handsome structure, which I have known for years-- since the time I had friends in Park Slope-- and which I have admired ever since. Buildings of this quality are rare and help give a neighborhood its character. Destroying C.B. J. Snyder schools should not be an option for the City to take.</p> |
| <p>321 Linda Jones</p> | <p>linda.jones33@gmail.com</p> | <p>Every CBJ Snyder gem should be preserved. Why not renovate? And expand in the rear, if necessary?</p> |
| <p>322 Paola Sanchez</p> | <p>paola_a_sanchez@yahoo.com</p> | |
| <p>323 Catherine Stutts 324 Suzanne Wray 325 George Y. Bramwell 326 PHYLLIS YAMPOLSKY</p> | <p>cstutts@gmail.com gribble@earthlink.net george9337@yahoo.com PARTAGE@EARTHLINK.NET</p> | |
| <p>327 Michaela Hayes</p> | <p>michaela.hayes@gmail.com</p> | |
| <p>328 marie de palma</p> | <p>depalmab@aol.com</p> | <p>This is a historic gothic style building -- we should not be doing this.</p> |
| <p>329 Jan Prager 330 Peter Bray</p> | <p>jprager@nyc.rr.com peterbray@mindspring.com</p> | <p>rethink, restore, renovate... do not destroy! The SCA has acted irresponsibly by undertaking this project in a stealthy fashion and not providing even a modicum of attention to the wishes of the community. It is clear that it has given no serious thought to alternatives that could save this historic building.</p> |
| <p>331 Jonathan</p> | <p>jonnysills@gmail.com</p> | |

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 286 Kyle Johnson | kylejohnson718@gmail.com | |
| 287 Kerry Mysiak | kmysiak@nyc.rr.com | To not even consider alternatives to tearing down an historical building and destroying a community garden is unthinkable. Especially wth community and environmental issues ignored. |
| 288 Gersil N. Kay, IESNA | bciorg2@yahoo.com | Each generation learns from what was done before.this process eliminates having to reinvent the wheel.Do not demolish this design. |
| 289 Jeff Sholeen | jps@corcoran.com | |
| 290 Cezar Del Valle | theatretalks@earthlink.net | |
| 291 Kristi Cameron | caseycrank@hotmail.com | |
| 292 Beth Bingham | bbingham@mas.org | |
| 293 Michael Devonshire | twybil@aol.com | |
| 294 Cleary Larkin | cleary.larkin@gmail.com | |
| 295 Kimberly Neuhaus | ksn@neuarch.com | |
| 296 Melissa Baldock | melevebald@yahoo.com | This is a beautiful School - it should be renovated and reused and if more space is needed, an addition should be built! |
| 297 Megan Rispoli | gymmeg23@yahoo.com | Please rethink this knee-jerk reaction to older buildings and community planning. Reuse, recycle, upgrade, add onto this beautiful building. |
| 298 Aron Eisenpress | afecu@eisenpress.com | |
| 299 Aaron Sosnick | aaronsosnick@alum.mit.edu | Why is the SCA attempting to rush a plan through without consulting the affected community? Government bodies should take extra care and build extra consensus and only destroy historic structures as a last resort. Have we learned nothing? |
| 300 Linda Eskenas | esken2@aol.com | Saving our historic building insures our positive future and high quality of life. it promotes a good economy in any market and is great for the environment. Save our future , and our present. |
| 301 Andrea Coyle | Andrea@east-village.com | Please do not destroy this treasure from CBJ Snyder. |
| 302 Bill Borock | wborock@hotmail.com | David:The school is a wonder to look at and not a building to destroy. Tell the School Construction Authority to reconsider its position and to work with the community to find the way to preserve the school and its garden. It can be done.Please lend your voice to save a building that is historic and beautiful and which if not demolished can remain as a building and garden oasis to learn in.Bill Borock |
| 303 Ken Baer | hungryhiker@aol.com | |
| 304 Gary Glazner | garyglaznerpoet@email.com | Please do not destroy this wonderful school. |
| 305 Simeon Bankoff | sbankoff@hdc.org | This building CAN be preserved and the school CAN be enlarged. All it will take is for the SCA to stop the rush to demolition! |
| 306 FranÃ§oise Bollack, AIA | fb@francoisebollackarchitects.com | Demolishing existing buildings, especially, buildings as well built as early public schools does not make environmental sense.Demolishing a New York City historic school is to lose the record of our achievements in public education it is also to needlessly lose beautiful buildings that are meaningful to communities. The demolition of old buildings is an admission that we lack the talent and resourcefulness to deal with anything other than the repetitive order of the new.Please do not demolish this school. |
| 307 Sarah Gallagher | SWGall@nyc.rr.com | |
| 308 Jaslyn | tua51363@temple.edu | Such buildings are irreplaceable and must be preserved! |

258 Jane Hodge jane@justfood.org

259 Devanie Jackson devaniejackson@msn.com

260 Ena Nemley enemley@msn.com

261 Yonnette Fleming yonfleming@yahoo.com

262 Denniston Wilis wilschach@yahoo.com

263 Marlene Wilis mdw579@yahoo.com

264 Wajeedah Anderson w@aol.com
Beyah

265 Karen Washington linkoree2@aol.com

266 Aresh Jaadi aresh@moregardens.org

267 Vanessa Hodge vmhodge@gmail.com

268 Marcia Murray mmurray15@mac.com

269 Gregory Anderson gregory.anderson61@yahoo.com

270 Angela Botha angelaboth@gmail.com

271 Micke young Hwork24@aol.com

272 Amy Blankstein ablankstein@verizon.net

273 Abby Youngblood abby@justfood.org

274 niCOLE SCHNEIDER nikiparadise@gmail.com

275 Jacquie Berger jacquie@justfood.org

276 Tesia Sommer tesia.sommer@gmail.com

277 Maya Davudova mdavudova@yahoo.com

278 Maya Davudova mdavudova@yahoo.com

279 Siena Chrisman siena76@gmail.com

281 Sara Franklin sara@whyhunger.org

282 Max Uesugi max-mrex@mindspring.com

283 Greg Zwahlen gpz200@nyu.edu

284 Barbara Ann Rogers brogers@bhsusa.com

285 Jennifer Greene jgreene@dattner.com

Among many other problems, destruction of the current community garden is a grave mistake. The Baltic Street Community Garden has existed for 30 years as a resource for the neighborhood. The garden is a source of beauty, open space, a place where the community can come together, and a source of food. We need our food sources now more than ever. We need the students from our schools to experience gardens and to learn about where food comes from. The health of our children, our communities, and ourselves depends on this. The soil at the Baltic Street Community Garden has been carefully built up over decades, and that soil can not be uplifted and moved to another site. The trees in the garden that have taken root over decades can not be reestablished elsewhere. The time, love, and stewardship that has been put into the garden can not be ignored. The garden is a huge asset to the community and to the current school and needs to be preserved.

Save our gardens
Keep these amazingly well built buildings and preserve these highly needed green oasis and expand them

I am opposed to the SCA plan to build a new structure on the existing schoolyard site. The negative impacts to the community are vast and potentially dangerous to students and community members. I thought quality of life issues was a serious concern of our mayor, I hope I am not wrong.

Education should include lessons on life, life can be found in gardens full of plants and trees. It has been great to watch the greening of the city, let's not end it with the destruction of a beautiful garden.

What a gorgeous building in a neighborhood stripped of any character. Please save it!

What a gorgeous building in a neighborhood stripped of any character. Please save it!

Please protect the garden!

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 238 Kathryn Millan | KathrynMillan@hotmail.com | I am so tired of the senseless tearing down of beautiful old yet still workable buildings, with no consideration for preserving the integrity of the surrounding neighborhoods. Have we learned nothing in the many years since the demolition of Penn Station?? The added traffic and huge number of students in a giant school cannot be better than renovating a reasonable-sized school building. Come on, People -- stop the destruction of our heritage. Go build a monster school in the suburbs where people have already sold their souls and have to drive to the deli for a carton of milk. |
| 239 victoria Rich | victoria.rich@earthlink.net | |
| 240 Caledonia Kearns | caledonia103@yahoo.com | Please save this building and the adjacent community garden. it is a vital natural resource & brooklyn has the lowest amount of green space per resident than anywhere else in the country. |
| 241 Aditi Dhruv | aditi.dhruv@gmail.com | |
| 242 Rick | pbchazz@yahoo.com | Keep things as they are now, for a change! |
| 243 Radha N Patel | everythinginitsowntime@hotmail.com | |
| 244 Isobeau Trybula | shaktidoctor@yahoo.com | |
| 245 Heather Lester | Heather.Lester.Rodd@gmail.com | This is my neighborhood. The garden is the best part of this area. Do not allow this plan to move forward. We deserve to have a beautiful garden and historic building. |
| 246 Myra Lopez | mygarfield22@aol.com | |
| 247 Karen Hudes | khudes@gmail.com | |
| 248 Natasha Harsh | nharsh@nyc.rr.com | |
| 250 Joy Rich | joyrich@hotmail.com | |
| 251 Edward Daniels | edward_f_daniels@hotmail.com | |
| 252 Christine McKelvie | cmckelvie@yahoo.com | Why rush into a "plan" that has not been adequately planned? Please consider the safety of the children (in what surely will be a traffic nightmare) and the character of the neighborhood. What do you plan to do with the hazardous materials contained in the school building and grounds? |
| 253 Samantha Davidson Green | greenbeansfamily@gmail.com | |
| 254 Lauren Keenan | laurenakeenan@gmail.com | |
| 255 Sam Pardo | spardo@gmail.com | |
| 256 Cecily Upton | cecilyu@gmail.com | |
| 257 Carine Verheyen | carinefrance@comcast.net | |

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 210 Terry Knickerbocker | terry.knickerbocker@gmail.com | |
| 211 Marielle Anzelone | melastomataceae@hotmail.com | |
| 212 Marisa Murray | mojmurray@mindspring.com | |
| 213 ANTHONY NARDONE | TN60@aol.com | |
| 214 ellen sande | ellen.sande@gmail.com | |
| 215 Carina Hueber | carina.hueber@mindspring.com | Please respect the wishes of the community!! |
| 216 Rachel Benoff | rbenoff@hotmail.com | |
| 217 Gerry Pearlberg | zychskyfarm@earthlink.net | |
| 218 anne cavallaro | acavallaro@mac.com | |
| 219 richard james | richadja@gmail.com | |
| 220 Jennifer Freeouf | jfreeouf@mac.com | |
| 221 Yuko Kodama | ykodama@earthlink.net | |
| 222 Simone Hannah-Clark | simonehannahclark@yahoo.com | |
| 223 Chris Kreussling | xrisfg@gmail.com | Test borings earlier this year destroyed plots in the garden. By this action, the SCA violated the settlement protecting community gardens from development. |
| 224 RoseAnn Ciarlante | racknick@yahoo.com | |
| 225 Steven Gilroy | sgwft@verizon.net | |
| 226 Noemi Tolchinsky | noemimo@aol.com | Why demolish a beautiful building? Maybe we can preserve some parts, the front or parts of the building and still do other improvements. I disagree on demolishing. On the other hand 4th Ave., is looking already ugly with all the new horrible construction, they all look like shoe boxes with no details. I think it needs a bit of beautification, demolishing this building is not going to help. Educate and copy what other developed countries do instead of erase the past (including buildings and history) they preserve the front and certain parts. |
| 227 Johanna Bauman | johannab66@jebjcl.net | |
| 228 Adriana Velez | adriana.whatsfordinner@gmail.com | |
| 229 Katherine Kinast | kkinast@gmail.com | This is a lovely old building and community garden on an unlovely avenue that is sprouting lots of ugly new buildings. It makes no sense to knock it down. |
| 230 Kristine LaManna | kristine.lamanna@bonniercorp.com | |
| 231 Samantha Seier | sseier@gmail.com | What better way to teach kids about growing goods than surrounding them with a beautiful garden? |
| 232 T. Woody Richman | yowoody@mac.com | |
| 233 Bess Hauser | Besshauser@yahoo.com | |
| 234 Kate Giel | kategiel@gmail.com | The course of this construction should be stopped for all of the reasons noted in this petition and so much more. I wholeheartedly support this petition. |
| 235 Maura | mfritz2@nyc.rr.com | |
| 236 Debra Eichten | deichten@gmail.com | |
| 237 Lisa Bruno | lbruno64@gmail.com | Please re-consider this plan. It seems as if the plan has not been entirely considered, especially the potential impact of hazardous waste. |

177 annette rupperecht annetterupperecht@aol.com

178 Marie Sacco meeewhoo@yahoo.com

179 Stana Weisburd stanadoula@yahoo.com

The community must have input. Preserving beautiful buildings and green spaces is so valuable. Why waste a great old building when we can maybe find a way to preserve it and make it work? And 4th Ave has so little green space. Growing things is healthy for all.

180 Audrey Doyle aedboklyn@gmail.com

181 Carla Cantone carla_cantone@yahoo.com

Please save this nice old building!

182 s.orman sorman3@yahoo.com

183 Eric McClure eric@parkslopeneighbors.org

184 clarkkid97@aol.com

185 Ken Freeman kfreeman@masseyknakal.com

186 Erica Gutierrez erskelly@yahoo.com

187 Vincent Lee leegeorgescu@verizon.net

NO to separate but equal in the public school system.

188 moie uesugi moie@earthlink.net

this is a GREAT garden, and the school building is great, on the inside, AND on the outside! they both NEED TO BE SAVED!!!!

189 robin brazelton orrf@msn.com

190 Julie Bleha jb246@columbia.edu

191 Sharon Slaughter slslaughter@gmail.com

192 Mina Jones mina@theclones.net

193 Laura Asmundsson lauraasmundsson@gmail.com

194 sarah wenk sarah@go.com

195 Stacey Sarnicola cmcstacey@verizon.net

196 Laura Furmanski laurasima@hotmail.com

197 Josephine Presutto motherson04@verizon.net

198 Keith Johnston Jr. edjohn8787@gmail.com

199 Ronald Fliegelman ronjo62@verizon.net

200 Tarin Schendler tarinschendler@yahoo.com

201 Susan Presutto kyushin@verizon.net

202 Elizabeth Mercer Aurandt info@mercerinterior.com

203 Susan Daitch sed372@aol.com

204 Tatiana Garcia tg75@aol.com

205 Sabine Rosenstein sonne@earthling.net

206 RUSSELL
NEUFELD&SUSAN
JACOBS
RNEUFELD@NEUFELDLAWOFFI
CE.COM

207 sandye renz sandyefern@verizon.net

208 A. VOTER www.tavzig@gmail.com

This garden is not of the rich, nor by the rich; but gardeners who are ordinary working people. Powerful rich politicians will destroy it without any qualms and consideration for incorporating this 6,500 sq. ft. of horticulture space into what could be a NEW STATE OF THE ART, "GREEN", BROOKLYN PUBLIC SCHOOL. Michele Obama, WE NEED YOU!

209 Liliana Vogel nycreflex@yahoo.com

Please save this stunning piece of architecture and beautiful garden!!

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 154 Heather Millar | hmillar@verizon.net | With all the construction along 4th Avenue, there is a need for new school facilities in Park Slope. Yet there is also a need to preserve open space and to give families an opportunity to be outside, to interact with nature, to garden. Surely, the city should at least give community concerns a hearing and try to accommodate both needs: education and open space. |
| 155 Marguerite Lukes | Marguerite.Lukes@gmail.com | Please save this building and the beautiful and important community garden on its grounds. |
| 156 kathy kramer | kmkramer50@yahoo.com | Pay attention to the neighbors!!! |
| 157 Zoe G. | zowie_@hotmail.com | Please keep in mind the numerous ways we can improve the school experience for these children WITHOUT any construction. Use these funds for teacher salaries to attract better teachers, for supplies, such as books and computers, or for supplemental school programs in music, art, or foreign language that can help a child connect to his or her school in an exciting way. |
| 158 Cheryl Levenbrow | nycnightowl@gmail.com | |
| 159 Thelma Diaz | ghigliotty_diaz@yahoo.com | |
| 160 Katharina Feil | kffile@aol.com | |
| 161 Saeida | saeidahall@yahoo.com | Do what is right!! You dont have the right to just come and bulldoze a community without making them a part of such a huge change to the landscape of the neighborhood!! Its just not right!! |
| 162 Robert Braun | brngione@gmail.com | I support the investigation of the alternative plan to retain the historic building. Any reduction in schedule and exposure to hazardous materials should be given first priority. Saving an historic resource should be a prerequisite. |
| 163 Adrienne Urbanski | Adrienne373@mac.com | Please reuse existing structure and incorporate into new plans. Is there any reason to do otherwise? |
| 164 Taryn FitzGerald | taryn@zur.com | There is NO reason to tear down this school. It is a lovely historical building with a thriving school community inside and a beautiful community garden outside. This new project will NOT bring any new seats to our own district (13). Before you release harmful chemicals into our streets and homes, please re-think this project; do not demolish PS 133 and the community garden. |
| 165 Pamela Caird | petition@mcnigel.com | |
| 166 joette tizzone | jtizzone@gmail.com | |
| 167 raymond williams | apollex04@yahoo.com | |
| 168 Nomi Kleinman | nomi_kleinman@hotmail.com | |
| 169 Stephanie Fogel | neshoma@earthlink.net | |
| 170 George J. Heusinger | gusgort@yahoo.com | THINK, THINK, THINK! CORNERSTONE INSCRIPTION BY.. M.B. and D.Y. |
| 171 Janina Scarlet | Janina_Scarlet@yahoo.com | EGO / LEGACY BUILT |
| 172 Mildred Mercado | mm@cbltd.com | |
| 173 Sheri Holman | sheri.holman@gmail.com | |
| 174 jenny taylor | redjen825@hotmail.com | |
| 175 fabienne gimenez | fabienne.gimenez@gmail.com | |
| 176 Selma | selmakikic@gmail.com | This seems highly unjust and plain unreasonable. Is there a reason why they want to do this? Are they planning to build a new and better school or is this just for more apt buildings!? Either way, this is travesty and should be stopped. |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 119 Suzan Frazier | suecrew@yahoo.com |
| 120 Kate McKenzie | katewmckenzie@hotmail.com |
| 121 Daniela Erle | dany.erle@gmx.net |
| 122 David Cabrera | david@davidcabrera.com |
| 123 Jerah Kirby | jerahkirby@yahoo.com |
| 124 patrick s.mccarty | dewlynotted@yahoo.com |
| 125 Dina Botwinick | dina.botwinick@gmail.com |
| 126 Harvey Kreiswirth | harvey@harveyk.com |
| 127 Cathleen Bell | cbell1@nyc.rr.com |
| 128 Christina von Roedern | freedumpeanuts@yahoo.com |
| 129 Heloise Gruneberg | heloise.g@verizon.net |
| 130 Tess Taylor | tess_taylor@mac.com |
| 131 Kathryn Kirk | kkirk@brooklynbp.nyc.gov |
| 132 Pat Conway | cally670@aol.com |
| 133 Patricia Dobosz | pdobosz5@aol.com |
| 134 Zorina Guri | zguri@aol.com |
| 135 Ken Curtin | kencurtin@yahoo.com |
| 136 Liz Sharp | sharpbuckley@earthlink.net |
| 137 keith kleiner | keithjk@gmail.com |
| 138 Simone Bouchev | greenysb@earthlink.net |
| 139 Taylor Schreiner | taschreiner@yahoo.com |
| 140 Andrea Kannapell | andreak@vzw.blackberry.net |
| 141 Pete Young | pete_young@verizon.net |
| 142 James Knapp | narva@ix.netcom.com |
| 143 Julie Besonen | jbesonen@mindspring.com |
| 144 joan Winters | oosulu@pipeline.com |
| 145 Steven Montgomery | sfmtonty@att.net |
| 146 Rogene Fisher | rofisher@yahoo.com |
| 147 Deborah Diamant | diamant@gmail.com |
| 148 Rebecca Kannaell | rk1032@nyu.edu |
| 150 alice | amkd@ca.rr.com |
| 151 Ridgely Trufant | ridgelyt@earthlink.net |
| 152 Xian Zhang | mr.xianzhang@yahoo.com |
| 153 Yiming Wang | yiming.nyc@gmail.com |

Tear down something ugly. I can guarantee you the new building would be no where near as beautiful as the old 133.

Relocating and downsizing the existing community garden, from 5000 sq ft to 3000 sq ft, as proposed, the neighborhood and its character, and, especially, the intended school students will be negatively impacted.

Get an injunction!!!

I am all for progress and development, but the school building on 4th Avenue is useful and beautiful and does not need to be destroyed. Also, the community garden needs to be preserved! 4th Avenue is becoming a wasteland of faceless new construction. Please help keep Brooklyn beautiful. Do not demolish PS133 and the community garden!

Not that creating new school facilities is not important but just the same our city loses in the end if we destroy its historical and green spaces!!

I agree with the DOE goal of adding new seats in Park Slope and adjoining neighborhoods. However, it should be done with full community consultation, with attention to preserving the current historic structure & the community garden, and with full consideration of the environmental impacts of new construction.

Why would anyone want to destroy a garden? Or a school? In this economy, we need work places, and with this environment, we do need to keep our planet greener!

Our school and our garden are deeply important to our community. School crowding issues must be solved. These priorities are not either/or -- they can co-exist.

Please stop the imminent demolition of this garden.

Please at least listen to the community.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 83 Lucille Murovich | lucille_mv@yahoo.com | If the school is still to come down then the Asbestos Contamination Must be Addressed! |
| 84 Nesim Serequeberhan | nesimserequeberhan@hotmail.com | I think that they should save the garden. |
| 85 michael bradley | patronzo1@gmail.com | the building is beautiful and should not be destroyed |
| 86 | liz.ocallahan@gmail.com | |
| 87 Karen Burkhardt | koburk@yahoo.com | |
| 88 Lauren Strobe | laurenstro@gmail.com | |
| 89 Brenda Leff | ernierules69@hotmail.com | |
| 90 Suzanne Darula | sdarula76@hotmail.com | Do not allow this to happen! We need to keep the garden and fix up the old school....not destroy valuable community property that, in and of itself, has a positive influence on the neighborhood. We need to stop this destruction from happening!!! |
| 92 Maryann Taranto | mjtaranto5@hotmail.com | |
| 93 Gabrielle Dowling | Gabydowling@hotmail.com | |
| 94 Stephen Harris | dedalus@usa.com | I cannot believe that the city would consider doing such irreversible harm to its own beauty and heritage. I am constantly amazed by how very backwards our school administration is, especially with regard to environmental concerns. |
| 95 Richard Weisfeld | ant.con@verizon.net | Preserve old buildings. Re-use old things. |
| 96 mindy shields | mindyshields@hotmail.com | |
| 98 DENISE WILLIAMS | DENIVIER@YAHOO.COM | |
| 99 Monica Christensen | mmc189@columbia.edu | |
| 100 Mary Ellen Avery | savery9823@aol.com | |
| 101 Cara Montague | stringbean75@gmail.com | |
| 102 Salman Tariq | cpak63@yahoo.com | |
| 103 Robin Simmen | rsimmen@gmail.com | The plan to to demolish this historic building and its neighboring community garden landscape is typical of the uglification of New York that is becoming a hallmark of turn-of-the-century NYC shortsightedness. Go back to the drawing board, include the community, and get it right for a change! |
| 104 Meryl Meisler | mmeisle@schools.nyc.gov | Save the garden. NYC needs more green spaces. |
| 105 Meryl Meisler | mmeisle@schools.nyc.gov | Save the historic building and garden. NYC needs more green spaces and links to our heritage.. |
| 106 Nick Angiolillo | duckumu@gmail.com | |
| 107 Tasia VanderVegt | tasia.vandervegt@gmail.com | |
| 108 mary garsia | maryg349@yahoo.com | The extreme combined impact of the helter-skelter, construction/development projects poorly planned for my neighborhood must be examined as a whole, and reigned in or else life in west/ northwest Park Slope will be quite unbearable. |
| 110 sarahim silva | sarahimsilva@hotmail.com | |
| 111 Rasheed Hislop | rashislop@gmail.com | Consider the community and the garden before doing away with something that has been there for a long time and means a lot to so many. |
| 112 Rick Kahn | rickyk@nyc.rr.com | |
| 113 Betty T. Turner | bttt525@aol.com | |
| 114 Kelsy Chauvin | kelsychauvin@hotmail.com | |
| 115 olexahewryk | olexahewryk@yahoo.com | |
| 116 Betty T. Turner. | bttt525@aol.com | |
| 117 Jeff Meininger | jeff.meininger@gmail.com | |
| 118 Heather Miller | heathinparis@yahoo.com | |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 59 Audrey Enseki-Tom | audrey@hiff.org | I support this petition. |
| 60 P. Nutbutter | goldilocks@hotmail.com | |
| 61 Christina Hibbs | bombinanole@yahoo.com | |
| 62 Emilia Sherifova | viaorient@gmail.com | It would be terrible is this beautiful building -- one of very few left on the recently rezoned 4th Avenue corridor -- will be destroyed. Neighborhood residents should united in opposition to try and stop this travesty of injustice... |
| 63 Eugene Resnick | eresnic1@hotmail.com | How can we demolish a beautiful historic school in a historic neighborhood? This is a crime against aesthetics. |
| 64 Jennifer Craft | jencraft3@gmail.com | |
| 65 David Alquist | f00nt@yahoo.com | |
| 66 Patricia McDannell | pattimcdannell@mac.com | Save the cost of a full new construction and save the historic architecture of this building and integrate a new modern addition! So many great local schools exist in very old beautiful buildings that are have become the pride of their school community (PS 39, 107, 29). With the education cutbacks we will continue to see, spending funds like this seems incredibly wasteful. And if one of the purposes of the the centralized DOE was to reduce school size, which in fact enhances the learning environment, what is the point of constructing a massive new building? |
| 67 Sarah G. | flutebug@gmail.com | I think that schools are great things to have, and we should continue to make more if we need more, but I think that tearing down a garden and playground to build one is just plain wrong. |
| 68 Ann | annita4@verizon.net | We are asking that the school be refurbished with additional classrooms to house a reasonable number of kids, but certainly not 900+. This would increase the already horrific traffic problem that exists in the neighborhood. Demolishing a beautiful building such as this one would be criminal. It would change the current structure of the neighborhood which blends in with the school building. |
| 69 Roy Strickland | granite101@verizon.net | |
| 70 Bay Brown | brown_bay@hotmail.com | |
| 71 kamali marsh | kamalimarsh@hotmail.com | |
| 72 Jon Crow | joncrow@earthlink.net | SAVE THE GARDEN!!! It was the origin of so many gardens in our community that followed their lead! |
| 73 Marie Spinney | yennips44@hotmail.com | |
| 74 Stephen Switzer | stephen.switzer@gmail.com | Save! |
| 75 Nicole Zehr | nczehr@gmail.com | |
| 76 Alexandra Simon | alexsimon1980@gmail.com | |
| 77 Judy Janda | jjanda@igc.org | I totally support this petition! |
| 78 David Locke | nuthatch159@verizon.net | |
| 79 sandra allen | queenofmalarky@earthlink.net | |
| 80 cynthia worley | haja216@aol.com | This is can only be characterized as thoughtless, cruel, ignorant, barbaric. When Giuliani thought building on gardens was the thing to do the NY Times said that "destroying a working coimunity garden " is a "violent" act. Moreover,It is preposterous to me that anyone would think tearing down a structurally sound architectural landmark could be better for anyone--especially the children, who need desperately to learn the rich history of NYC architecture.This is sad & painful, let alone brutal. |
| 81 jenny polak | jp@jennypolak.com | |
| 82 George Waffle | gw284@aol.com | demolition is wasteful of resources and very polluting. |

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 32 Rea Tajiri | appleville@gmail.com | It is always a necessity to hear from the community before imposing a structure into their domain that will directly impact their quality of life including possible environmental contamination. I have been hearing about this wonderful garden from my friend who works in it and keeps a small plot there with her daughter. This is a thriving community resource along with the historic schoolhouse. Please reconsider moving the new schoolhouse to a more reasonable location that does not endanger the community and displace a valuable community resource. |
| 33 Deborah Howard | debhoward@optonline.net | |
| 34 Dimitrea Tokunbo | dimitrea@yahoo.com | I live in Brooklyn and preserving history, beauty and "aliveness" for our children (and ourselves) is important to me. |
| 35 Don Quinn Kelley | donquinnkelley@earthlink.net | |
| 36 Eleni Beja | krimakrios@yahoo.com | |
| 37 Lou Giansante | lgiansante@nyc.rr.com | |
| 38 Rachel Benoff | rbenoff@hotmail.com | |
| 39 Sofia Dumery | sofia_dumery@callaway.com | There is no way you will ever be able to rebuild anything as beautiful as that building. |
| 40 Jeremy Kim | jer.kim@nyu.edu | |
| 41 Maria Cutrona | maria@jamarts.com | |
| 42 MarÁ-lia Albornoz | marilia17@infolink.com.br | |
| 43 Robert Murtha | barzileel@gmail.com | |
| 44 | dave.paco.abraham@gmail.com | |
| 45 Christine Hagen | c_r_hagen@hotmail.com | Shame on whoever made the decision to tear down one of the few beautiful buildings and green spaces on 4th Avenue....and trying to do it on the sly at that! I hope this can be stopped. There are always ways of modernizing and updating without destroying the beauty that already exists! |
| 46 Christine Hagen | c_r_hagen@hotmail.com | Shame on whoever made the decision to tear down one of the few beautiful buildings and green spaces on 4th Avenue....and trying to do it on the sly at that! I hope this can be stopped. There are always ways of modernizing and updating without destroying the beauty that already exists! |
| 47 Suzanne Spellen | sspellen@earthink.net | Why is destruction the first and only option in this city. This is a well built, functional school, rich in local and architectural history and beauty. Please look at alternate plans that can preserve it, AND built needed facilities for our kids. |
| 48 Liz Heck | eamheck@yahoo.com | This is ridiculous! There is no need to tear this building down. |
| 49 michael choi | michaelchoi@earthlink.net | The city talks about being green all the time but does not put its message into use. Adaptive re-use of architecturally significant building is the ultimate way to be green in the city and it helps keep the history of the community. Demolition is only a solution for the uninspired. |
| 50 Samantha Bennett | sambennett13@gmail.com | |
| 51 Lori Hiris | lorihiris@hotmail.com | |
| 52 Grady Kelly | Grady.Kelly@temple.edu | |
| 53 Minette Ferrer | minette.ferrer@gmail.com | |
| 54 Nicholas DiCicco | lobstersaregreat@gmail.com | |
| 55 Robin Covarrubias | ra_cov@yahoo.com | |
| 56 kiyomi toda-burke | kiyomitb@earthlink.net | |
| 57 moie Uesugi | moie@earthlink.net | |
| 58 Paula Champa | paulachampa@hotmail.com | |

| ID | NAME | EMAIL | COMMENTS |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | SJ Avery | Savery9823@aol.com | The SCA also fails to realize that the old PS 133 is an architectural anchor for the community |
| 2 | Reiko Tahara | reiko-mrex@mindspring.com | Yes, the beautiful cherished building and the garden should be saved!! |
| 3 | brookes boswell | brookesb@gmail.com | |
| 4 | annabelle gay reboli | gayreboli@gmail.com | |
| 5 | Eric Denny | ericdenny@gmail.com | |
| 6 | Paul Sweet | sweet@amnh.org | Baltic St. resident and Community Gardener |
| 7 | Mary Gargan | mgargan@gmail.com | |
| 8 | Julie Claire Derscheid | claire.julie@gmail.com | |
| 9 | Lizette Cruz | lc12@nyu.edu | |
| 10 | Richard Haw | rhaw@jjay.cuny.edu | |
| 11 | Roberto Jeanniton | rdj268@gmail.com | |
| 12 | Luis Cruz | kingluis4u@gmail.com | |
| 13 | Meredith Mendelsohn | meredith@affordabletranslations.com | This is a premature project with many details still unclear. |
| 14 | Dorota Kolodziejczyk | dorota@aragaki.com | We must start being more protective of our architectural history. Demolishing this is tragic and needless, and ignores the wants of the community. |
| 15 | JF Tolbert | jftolbert@hotmail.com | |
| 16 | bethany rouslin | brouslin@gmail.com | With so much asphalt and so little green space, each small square of dirt that is actually being used to grow food, flowers, trees, etc. should be considered a human necessity. There must be other options considered before taking away something that makes it possible to be connected to the earth in this urban environment. Even the president of the United States has realized how important gardens are, as one was jus planted on the white house grounds. |
| 17 | Maisie Todd | maisietodd@gmail.com | |
| 18 | Greg Emmanuel | greg.emmanuel@mindspring.com | |
| 19 | Sean Roberts | seansroberts@hotmail.com | |
| 20 | Michael Blaise Backer | mbb257@mac.com | |
| 21 | Patricia reed | patricia.reed@espn3.com | |
| 22 | Ari Korner | arikorner@gmail.com | |
| 23 | debora jackson | ctafc@earthlink.net | |
| 24 | Christopher Moisan | chrmoisan@gmail.com | |
| 25 | David Kimelman | david@davidkimelman.com | |
| 26 | Robert Rosenberg | robertgrosenberg@gmail.com | |
| 27 | Barbara Ann Rogers | brogers@bhsusa.com | |
| 28 | Charles Wells | brooklynchuck@gmail.com | |
| 29 | Briar Sauro | bsawg@yahoo.com | |
| 30 | jackie lenox | shirleythecat@earthlink.net | please save this lovely building from demolition! The only beautiful thing on 4th avenue and you want to take it down? insanity! |
| 31 | yvonne stender | stendery@sunset.com | |

Powered by iPetitions - start your online petition now

Save 4th Ave Park Slope Landmark and Community Garden

petition text signatures email friends

The petition

Please help us stop the imminent demolition of a beautiful, structurally sound 100 year old building (a Snyder school) that is one of the few distinguished structures along 4th Avenue corridor and eligible for inclusion on the State and National registers of historic places.

The School Construction Authority plans to build the new structure on the footprint of the existing schoolyard and one of the very few remaining community gardens then tear down the turn-of-the-century Gothic-style building upon completion.

Community comments were invited but not heeded, environmental issues were minimally addressed, projected traffic was significantly underestimated (with virtually no mitigation), architectural issues were raised and dismissed...

Please support us in the efforts to change the course of this construction.

Sign the petition

Fields marked * are required.

* Name:

* Email:

Comments:

- Display my name as *anonymous* on the signatures list
- Yes, I want iPetitions to contact me on similar campaigns or petitions.

Petition sponsor

Community of Neighborhood Residents, Gardeners and Parents

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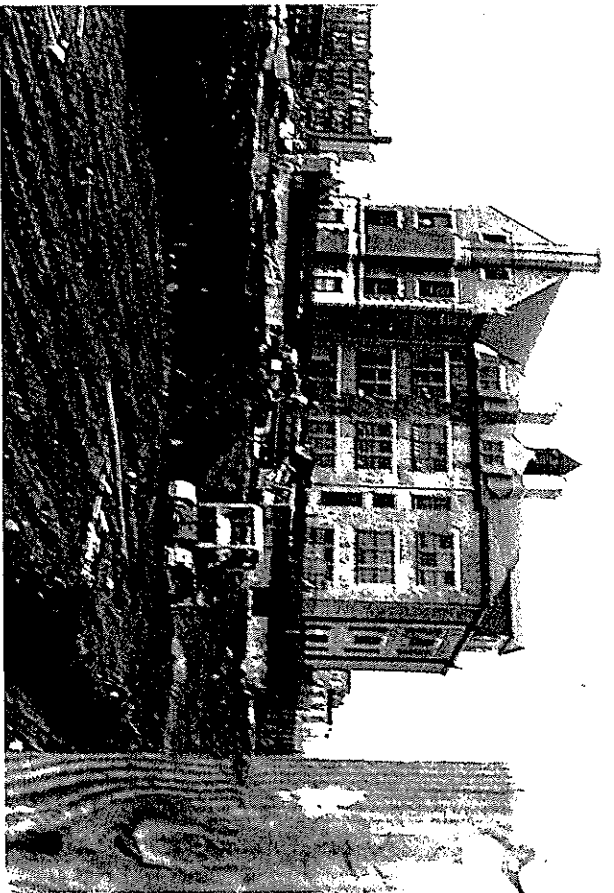
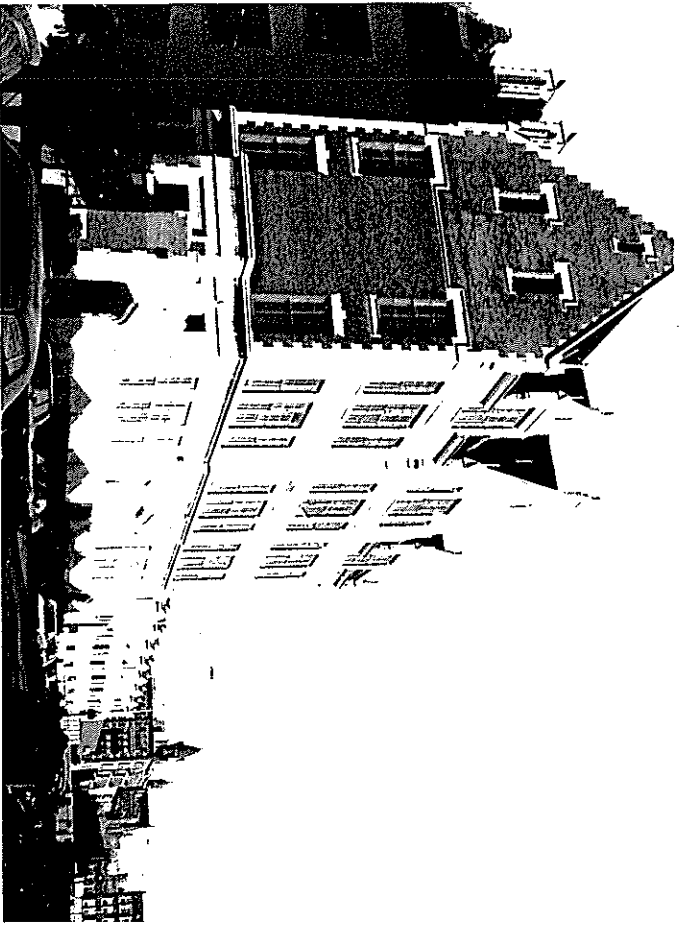
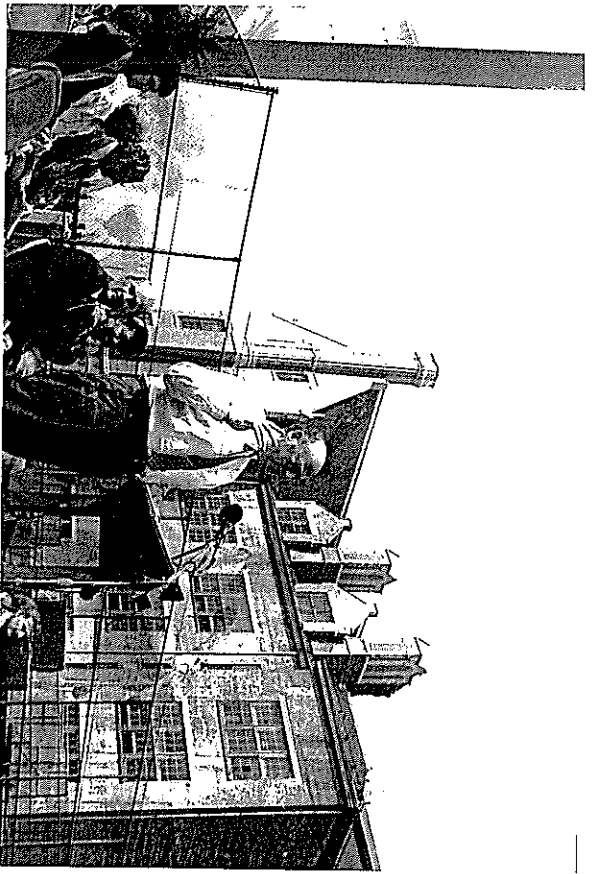
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Archive Photos of PS 133 & Park Slope Village Construction/ Groundbreaking





SCA/Public review time-line for PS 133

January 22 – PS 133 neighbors first hear about school at District 15 meeting (50 blocks away from school site). SCA says school will serve 800, with 500 new from District 15. No plan in place for selection of District 15 Students. SCA says they have to start in summer or lose construction funds in the current 5 year capital plan. SCA says opportunity for public input will occur through Community Board 6 meeting. No details on school because it is “in design”. SCA says community will be informed of details about school construction through “dear neighbor letters”.

Residents begin checking CB6 website and calling office for date of meeting.

(Approx) March 10 – Announcement of Public Hearing posted on CB 6 website. SCA announcement show only footprint of site, no design detail. School described as serving “approximately 900 students”

March 26 – Public Hearing on school held by CB 6. Model of school and slide show presented. Many residents shocked by size and absence of old school. Community response is overwhelmingly negative. Public comment limited to 3 minutes a person. Few questions answered about school. SCA says more detail will be available when Draft Environmental Impact Statement is published. SCA says poor communication partially due to absence of liaison for project – a new hire is said to be “in pipeline”

Residents begin watching SCA website for DEIS

Friday, April 24 - DEIS completed and posted on SCA website the following week. Residents begin review of planning assumptions, finding many inconsistencies. Most troubling is reference to ground water contamination in school site area and characterization of soil as hazardous waste. No safety plan cited by SCA – safety precautions to be responsibility of contractors

Resident prepare response to DEIS, pointing out planning problems (loss of school as architectural anchor, mass of proposed building, underestimation of traffic and inadequate safeguards for safe drop-off and pick up of school children). Suggest alternate proposal that would include renovation of school to increase capacity and building annex with smaller footprint on site.

After learning that of a state judge ruling that New York City officials violated state environmental law when they began building a school complex on a contaminated site in the South Bronx without first coming up with a plan to ensure that students and the public would not be exposed to pollutants in the future, residents contact the director of

the Center for Public Environmental Oversight, who reviews Hazardous material section of DEIS and notes significant problems with lack of planning for site remediation

May 8 – Democrat Candidate forum for Council - all six candidates at forum oppose SCA plan

Thursday, May 14 – DEIS hearing held at 4 pm. SCA reviews plan for 45 minutes, public comment limited to 3 minutes each. SCA announces discovery of swing space for students; school will be demolished first, to create staging area. SCA does not respond to questions about demolition safety. Community liaison introduced, with promises of better communications. Testimony is again solidly against SCA plan.

Formal statements in opposition submitted by

Area homeowners
Fifth Avenue Committee (local affordable housing community organization)
District Council candidates
Gardeners

Saturday, May 16 – Unannounced “test drilling” on school begins at 9am and continues until 4 pm. Trucks block half of Butler Street. Drilling is by SCA demolition subcontractors who tell residents that they are trying to find what is in the school so a safety plan for demolition can be developed.

Last weeks in May – opposition to plan continues to grow.

Park Slope Civic Association drafts formal resolution asking that City Council reject SCA plan.

On-line petition to save school and community garden placed on website.

Municipal Arts Society joins opposition to plan.

Community residents testify at SCA capital budget hearing about lack of transparency regarding budget for school project.

Through discussions with Council staff, community residents discover that construction does not have to start by end of June in order to preserve funding for school construction.

Residents learn that SCA has not been in consultation with State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic preservation since December, when that office asked for, and failed to receive, information related to alternatives to tearing down the existing school.

May 28 – on advice of environmental consultant, residents begin email correspondence with SCA liaison asking for source material cited in DEIS report on hazardous soil and water conditions. As first SCA appears to be responsive,

June 8 – Community Board 6 holds traffic and safety subcommittee meeting to discuss concerns raised by community. SCA representative attends and says that final Environmental Impact will be released shortly and it will explain need assumptions. Also states that the SCA has a general safety plan that covers all construction activity and that, from time to time, a SCA representative will be on site to monitor excavation. CB 6 declines to endorse SCA plan; urges that SCA create an advisory group including CEC representatives from districts 13 and 15, community residents, representative from CB 6, elected officials and representatives from SCA and DOE. SCA representative asks that community trust the SCA.

June 9 – Assemblywoman Millman writes to Klein and CSA president Greenberger, expressing concern about lack of community input in CSA plan for PS 133, notes the historic value of the school, and the absence of any cost benefit analysis of options including preservation of the existing school.

June 10 – Community meeting with environmental consultant. Residents advised that the discovery of a volatile organic compound plume (such as TCE or PCE) under a school site should trigger full characterization, remedy evaluation, remedy implementation, and long-term site management. This should be done before construction, both to protect the building's occupants (students, faculty, and staff) and because construction could interfere with investigation and cleanup. As at the other sites (Mott Haven and Info Tech HS) it should be done under the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is state (DEC and DOH) policy that mitigation (depressurization) is not enough. Cleanup is required at such sites

June 14 – SCA informs community residents that they must make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Law in order to obtain source material related to hazardous conditions on school and neighborhood grounds.

June 15 – Final EIS is placed on SCA website. No receipt of positive comments on plan is reported. All sections of statement are virtually unchanged from draft report.

June 16 – Residents learn that the SCA is being sued for failure to clean up contamination at a proposed Queens school site.

June 19 – Assemblywoman Millman writes to State DEC, asking for assistance in developing a full review of the site prior to construction



PS 133: School Construction Authority (SCA) Should Withdraw Its Current Dangerous and Flawed Proposal for PS 133

The NYC Council Should Instruct the SCA to Develop a Proposal that Balances Educational, Health and Safety, Community and Preservation Goals

Talking Points

- ▶ The School Construction Authority proposes to demolish the existing PS 133 structure serving 300 children from Districts 13 and replace it with a new building serving nearly 1000 children from Districts 13, 15 and 75 to help alleviate overcrowding in District 15.
- ▶ **We oppose the current SCA proposal but do not oppose additional school seats at the site.**
- ▶ We welcome developing a proposal with the SCA that accommodates greater seat need that preserves and renovates the existing PS 133 building, preserves open space and the community garden, is built within existing zoning if new construction is required and ensures meaningful community/broad stakeholder involvement in the re-development of the PS133 site. Most importantly, the SCA's proposal should protect the health and safety of students, teachers, the local community and the remediation of the contamination on the site should be done with the New York State oversight and as per NY State environmental law.
- ▶ 80% of the student population in District 13 are African-American, 17% are Latino, 2% are white and approximately 1% are Asian compared to the population of the wider community which was over 55% African-American, 23% white, 15% Latino and approximately 3% Asian in 2000.
- ▶ 20% of the student population in District 15 are white, over 50% are Latino, nearly 20% are African-American and approximately 10% are Asian compared to the population of the wider community which was nearly 50% white, less than 10% African-American, 10% Asian and over 30% Latino in 2000. The majority of the student population in District 15 near the PS 133 site are white.
- ▶ The current SCA proposal creates 'separate but equal' schools within the newly designed PS133 building. The design of the new PS 133 building serving nearly 1000 children that the SCA has proposed has separate entrances for District 13 and District 15 students, creating a design that reinforces the perception if not the reality that students from the two districts, whose racial and socio-economic make-up is quite different immediately surrounding the school site, are separate but equal.
- ▶ Opened in 1901, the existing PS133 building was designed by the renowned CBJ Snyder who designed over 300 public schools in New York City. It is a Collegiate Gothic/Flemish Renaissance design and is eligible for both the National and State Historic Registers. A number of CBJ Snyder school buildings have been landmarked in the City.

PS 133: School Construction Authority (SCA) Should Withdraw Its Current Dangerous and Flawed Proposal for PS 133

The NYC Council Should Instruct the SCA to Develop a Proposal that Balances Educational, Health and Safety, Community and Preservation Goals

- ▶ The current SCA proposal demolishes the historic PS 133 building. Over 350 local residents have signed a petition which has just recently been circulated to save the existing historic structure.
- ▶ The existing PS 133 site has a community garden which has been there for over 25 years and was designed and located on the DOE site as a permanent community and educational resource. The current SCA proposal would move the garden and make it half the size.
- ▶ The current SCA proposal was developed with no outside community input including no input from surrounding neighbors or the community at large. The community at large first heard about the proposal from the SCA in January of this year and there has not been any opportunity for true dialogue or input. The SCA has presented twice to CB6 including accepting a last minute invitation to participate in a CB6 committee meeting a week ago. In the only community meeting that was advertised to the larger community which occurred in March and where the actual plan for the redevelopment of the school was unveiled for the first time, over 100 local residents attended and voiced their opposition to the SCA proposal.
- ▶ The Park Slope Civic Council, Park Slope Neighbors, Fifth Avenue Committee and residents in the community have all asked that the current SCA proposal be withdrawn and a more thoughtful and comprehensive proposal developed with broad community/stakeholder input. Community Board 6 will be voting on a resolution which calls for the creation of a task force which includes broad stakeholder representation.
- ▶ While District 13 and 15 CEC's were briefed and included in the development of the current SCA proposal, on-going challenges with parental involvement, especially with the District 13 CEC, have led to questions of sufficient representation and involvement of District 13 parents.
- ▶ SCA has not properly disclosed environmental data to the public about the toxins that exist on the PS 133 site nor have they shared detailed plans which sufficiently protect the health and safety of the students, teachers or larger community. **They have refused to release copies of the detailed environmental reports and have instructed the community to file a Freedom of Information Law request** (see email from SCA).
- ▶ In November of 2008, a judge ruled and it was reported in the New York Times (see ruling and article) that the SCA violated the state's environmental law when they began building a school complex on a contaminated site in the Mott Haven

PS 133: School Construction Authority (SCA) Should Withdraw Its Current Dangerous and Flawed Proposal for PS 133

The NYC Council Should Instruct the SCA to Develop a Proposal that Balances Educational, Health and Safety, Community and Preservation Goals

section of the South Bronx without first coming up with a plan to ensure that students and the public would not be exposed to pollutants in the future.

- ▶ The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for PS133 states that "Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) were detected at concentrations exceeding their respective New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Air Guidance Values (AGVs) in one soil vapor sample.... These compounds are migrating onto the site from an off-site source based on contaminant distribution." On the following page it says, "A sub-slab depressurization system and a vapor barrier would be made part of the new school construction to prevent the potential migration of organic vapors, if any, into the proposed school building."
- ▶ Lenny Siegel, an environmental expert from the Center for Public Environmental Oversight who is consulting with us and was directly involved in similar situations involving the SCA in both the Mott Haven and Info Tech High School in Long Island City states; "such a depressurization system is a necessary, but insufficient consequence of the soil vapor results. As at the Mott Haven Campus (South Bronx) and Info Tech High School (Long Island City), the discovery of a volatile organic compound plume (such as TCE or PCE) under a school site should trigger full characterization, remedy evaluation, remedy implementation, and long-term site management. This should be done before construction, both to protect the building's occupants (students, faculty, and staff) and because construction could interfere with investigation and cleanup. As at the other sites, it should be done under the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is state (DEC and DOH) policy that mitigation (depressurization) is not enough. Cleanup is required at such sites.

If the existing school is retained, it should probably have sub-slab depressurization, and homes to the east of the school may require their own systems. Vapor intrusion is a continuous, completed pathway that increases the risk of cancer and other diseases even at low concentrations."

- ▶ When asked why the rush to adopt a plan for PS133 that so many people object to, SCA cites the potential loss of city capital funding for the project. We have verified with City Council finance staff that the capital funding for the project will automatically be rolled over into the new 5 year capital plan since the project is 'underway'.
- ▶ Current students of PS 133 need a plan regardless of what happens with the SCA proposal.



Fifth Avenue Committee
Our Community. Our Future.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: SJ Avery (917) 509-1613
Michelle de la Uz (646) 285-2978

Park Slope Residents, Parents, Community Leaders and Gardeners, City-wide Preservationists and Environmentalists Call on the School Construction Authority (SCA) to Withdraw their Dangerous and Flawed Plan for PS 133 in Brooklyn

Local Leaders Testify before the New York City Council Sub-committee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses at City Hall Today Calling for the Withdrawal of the SCA Proposal for PS133.

Brooklyn, New York: A growing neighborhood based coalition of residents and parents, community gardeners, community and civic leaders along with local and city-wide historic preservationists and environmentalists urge the School Construction Authority (SCA) to withdraw their dangerous and flawed proposal for PS 133 in Brooklyn. The group contends that the SCA should withdraw their current proposal for the PS 133 site and work with a broad and representative group in the community to develop a plan that: 1) preserves and renovates the existing historic PS 133 building while also developing another school building on the site that accommodates the need for increased school seats; 2) ensures the health and safety of students, teachers and the larger community by fully disclosing the environmental data and risks associated with the contaminated site and designing a remediation plan that complies with New York State environmental law and involves NYS oversight; and 3) balances the need for open space and a community garden.

The group is not opposed to additional school seats at the site and insists that the key to a successful plan is broad and meaningful community involvement in the development of a plan. The proposal by the SCA demolishes the existing PS133 building serving nearly 300 students from district 13 and replaces it with a building serving nearly 1000 elementary students serving districts 13, 15 and 75.

New York City Councilwoman Letitia James (District 35), who represents a significant portion of School District 13, states; "I wholeheartedly support preservation of the historic PS 133 school building. I also agree that it is necessary to increase seats and expand the school building to alleviate overcrowding. It is clear though, that the School Construction Authority's proposal is not a good fit in either design or programming. We owe our children the consideration of developing an expansion proposal which keeps their safety and well being in mind and makes health a first priority."

The SCA plans to demolish the 108 year old historic CBJ Snyder designed PS 133 building and its neighboring 20+ year old community garden in order to make room for a new school building. The current PS 133 building is eligible for the National and State Historic Registries and is the oldest CBJ Snyder building in Brooklyn. Both local and city-wide preservationists are shocked that the SCA would propose to demolish the existing PS 133 building.

Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director of the Historic Districts Council shares "The SCA must find a solution to build for this community's future while respecting its past."

The current PS 133 building and community garden are part of neighborhood with an extensive history of activism that values a sense of community and open space. Julie Claire of the Baltic Street Community Garden states, "This is the only community garden on the whole of Fourth Avenue. Destroying it would mean losing the only open green space on a six mile stretch of road from Flatbush all the way to the Verrazano Bridge."

The SCA failed to reach out and meaningful engage all the stakeholders in the community and so their proposal for PS 133 is flawed on many levels. As Peter Bray Chair of the Historic District Committee of the Park Slope Civic Council states, "we are very concerned about the inadequate planning, and lack of consultation with the community about the loss of the historic building and are advocating that the SCA table the project until they adequately address community concerns including the examination of alternatives to demolition of PS 133 and we call on the elected officials to oppose the project in its current form."

Michelle de la Uz, Executive Director of Fifth Avenue Committee goes on to say, "Fifth Avenue Committee was formed by a group of neighbors more than 30 years ago who wanted to revitalize the then leveled area around the PS 133 building. It was literally the only building for blocks and has been an anchor for the community for generations. The SCA's proposal will irrevocably destroy the fabric of the community while also threatening the health and safety of students, teachers and local residents."

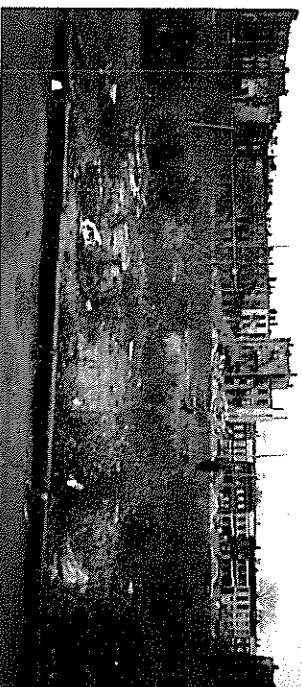
The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for PS 133 states that there are volatile organic compounds contaminating the site that were detected in concentrations exceeding the New York State Department of Health Air Guidance Values. The SCA's refusal to disclose the full environmental data for the PS 133 site unless compelled to do so under the Freedom of Information Law is extremely disturbing and seems to be a pattern at the SCA. As SJ Avery, a local leader and resident states, "When I started researching the SCA's track record on school siting, I found that there were almost 17,000 matches for 'NYC School Construction Authority Toxic Schools'".

Lenny Siegel, an environmental expert from the Center for Public Environmental Oversight who is consulting with the group and was directly involved in similar situations involving the SCA states that the SCA's proposal to remediate "thru a depressurization system is necessary, but insufficientAs at Mott Haven Campus and Info Tech High School, the discovery of a volatile organic compound plume under a school site should trigger full characterization, remedy evaluation, remedy implementation, and long-term site management. This should be done before construction, both to protect the building's occupants and because construction could interfere with investigation and clean-up. As at other sites, it should be done under the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is State (DEC and DOH) policy that mitigation is not enough. Clean-up is required at such sites."

#####

History of the Baltic Street Community Garden 1977-present

Before 1977



Almost two full blocks (Baltic & Butler Street) had remained vacant due to the city's fiscal crisis in 1975. It was a popular site for illegal dumping and local gang members' hangout.

1977-82

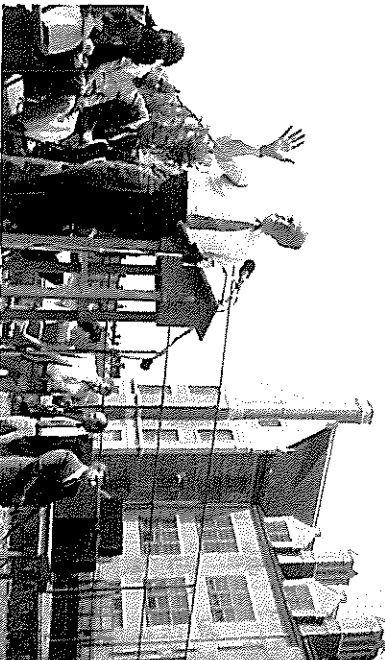


Area residents turned the garbage dump into vegetable garden with raised beds. It was a joint community efforts of Horticultural Society, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Astor Foundation, Fifth Avenue Committee, HPD, Baltic Street Block Association, Park Slope Civic Council, and Aetna Life Insurance Company.

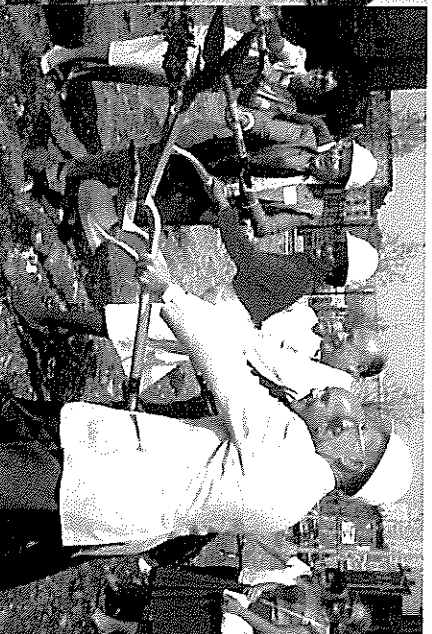


View inside garden. Gardeners enlisted local gang leaders to work in the garden and contributed for reducing the crime rates of the area.

1983



Mayor Koch speaking at the podium on the groundbreaking ceremony for the Park Slope Village. Because of its success and contribution to the community, it was decided that the Baltic St. Community Garden would be rebuilt in the PS 133 property and be fully integrated into the new planned community as a "permanent asset."



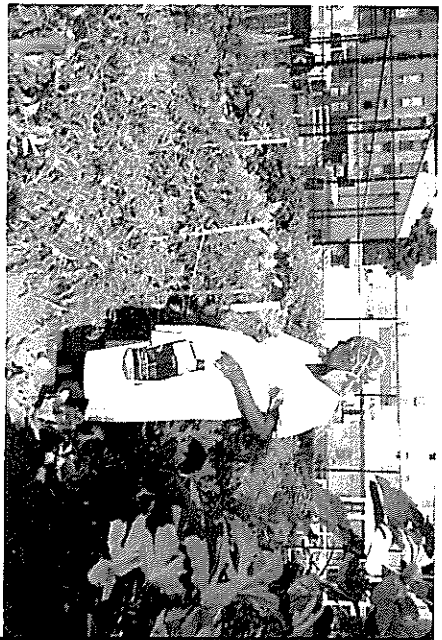
Mayor Koch (3rd from right) at the groundbreaking ceremony with other leaders who were involved in the development. Left to right: Rebecca Reich, dir. of the Fifth Avenue Committee; Anthony Gliedman, HPD Commissioner; Jeanetta Gat, president of the Baltic St. Association; City Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin; and City Council Majority Leader Tom Cuite.

1984

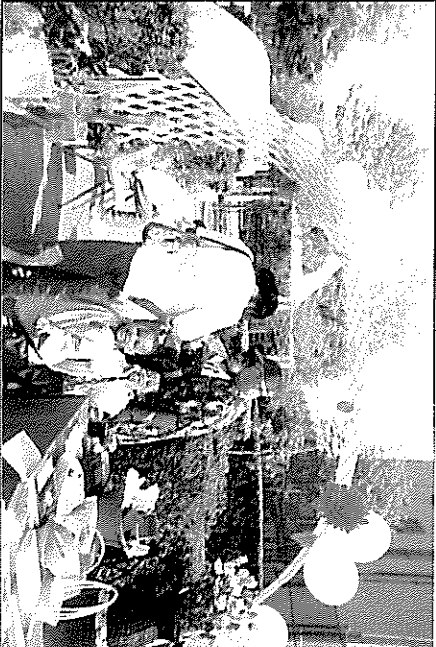


The Brand-new Baltic St. Community Garden in the current site. Facing the 4th Ave. The hedges are so tiny and no trumpet vines.

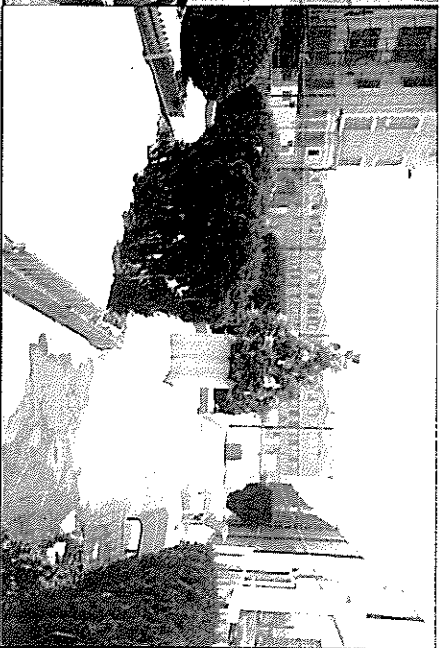
Late 1980s



Early 1990s

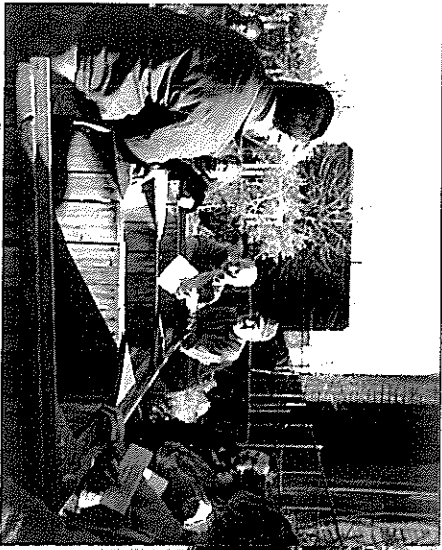


Plant Sale

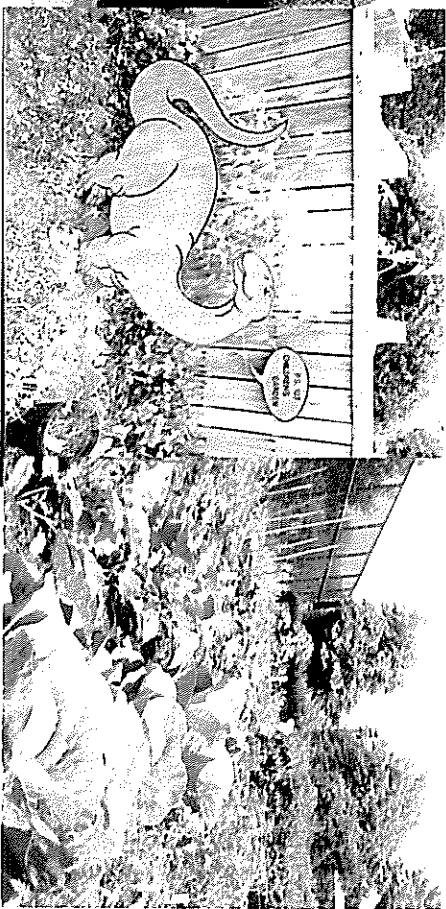


X'mas tree

Mid 1990s

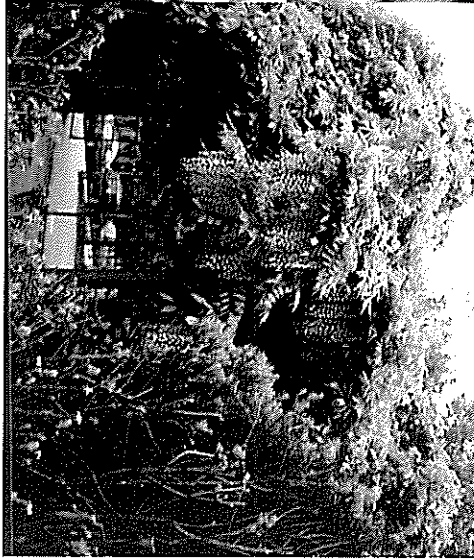
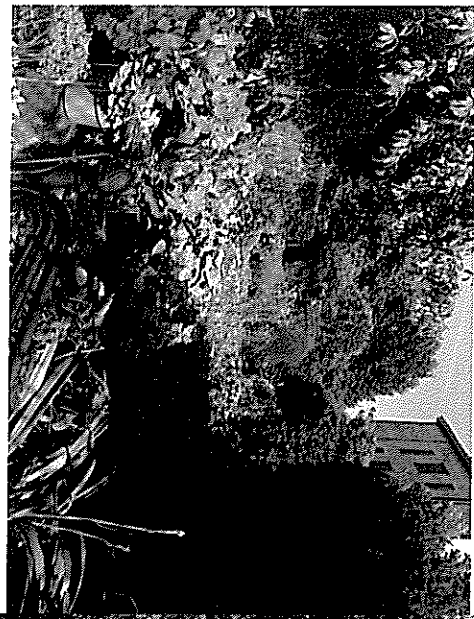


Late 1990s



Compost workshop by BBG staff

Now



Zack Schulman
Green Guerillas
info@nycgreen.org
(212) 594-2155

Testimony in support of the Baltic Street Community Garden.

My name is Zack Schulman. I am a community organizer for Green Guerillas, an organization that has spent the last 35 years helping New York City residents create, cultivate, and manage community gardens as neighborhood parks, healthy green spaces, and urban farms.

Green Guerillas pledges its support to the Baltic Street community gardeners and urges all of you to do whatever you can to preserve the Baltic Street Community Garden.

The Baltic Street garden is part of a network of more than 600 community gardens in New York City, the majority of which have been preserved as permanent green spaces – a testament to the recognized importance of community gardens as part of healthy, well planned neighborhoods.

The fact that the Baltic Street Community Garden has been in existence for decades is a testament to what the Baltic Street gardeners give to the lower Park Slope community – a community that does not have an overabundance of open space. They take care of a green space that improves the environment, gives people the opportunity to garden and grow food, and serves as a buffer to the hectic urban landscape.

The only community garden on 4th Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to the Verrazano, the Baltic Street garden makes a small corner of Brooklyn a bit healthier and a bit more liveable for all who live and work around it.

Preserving this community managed open space while increasing the capacity of the local school to serve students is a “win-win” solution that is attainable and will serve the long term needs of lower Park Slope residents.

Thank you for your time.

Lease Amendment (the “Amendment”) between the City of New York and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (“PA”) for Howland Hook Marine Terminal (the “Terminal”), Staten Island

Site Location:

Howland Hook Marine Terminal is located along the Arthur Kill on Staten Island. The approximately 200 acre terminal is the largest container terminal in New York State and New York City. The Site is owned by the City of New York (“City”), leased to the PA, administered by New York City Economic Development Corporation (“NYCEDC”) and subleased to the terminal operator, New York Container Terminal Inc. (“NYCT”).

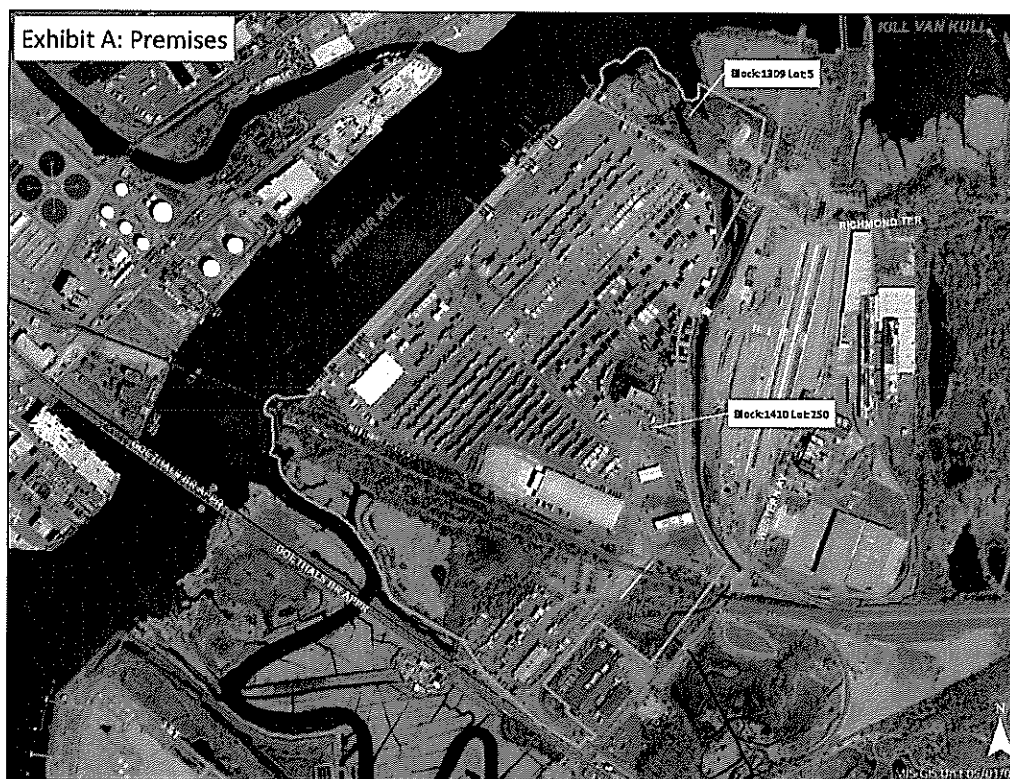


Figure 1 – Howland Hook Marine Terminal

History:

- 1974- 1985 Lease between U.S. Lines and the City
- 1985- 2023 Lease between PA and the City
- 1985-1995 Terminal closed due to bankruptcy of U.S. Lines
- 1996 Terminal reopened and operation commenced by NYCT
- 1996- 2019 Sublease between NYCT and PA
- 2007 PA requested a 25 year lease extension to amortize a \$350+ million investment in the facility
- 2007-2009 lease negotiation between PA and NYCEDC
- 2009 final terms have been reached



New York City Economic Development Corporation

Business Terms:

- Lease will be extended from July 2023 to July 2058
- For the period starting with the effective date of the 2009 lease amendment through July 2023, the PA will pay an annual rent of \$3,377,052.84, which is the rent amount for the lease year of 2008
- During the term of the current lease, PA shall make Capital Investment in the amount not less than \$110,000,000
- During the term of the extension
 - a) provided that Capital Investment has been made, PA will pay an annual rent of \$1,000,000 plus 25% of total revenues generated to the PA from the Terminal that exceed a minimum threshold
 - b) provided that Capital Investment has not been made, PA will pay an annual rent of \$4,500,508.99 escalating at 2% per year.
- If the full Capital Investment is not made during the term of the existing lease, the PA shall have the option to terminate the lease so that it does not extend beyond 2023. If the PA exercises its option to terminate, NYCEDC shall no longer have the option to extend the master lease with the PA for the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal after 2029.

Economic Benefits:

- NYCT is the largest industrial employer on Staten Island, currently employing 555 people
- NYCT represents approximately 18% of total container port volume (540,000 TEUs/year)
- NYCT pays \$9 million per year in annual payroll taxes
- Lease extension will provide an additional \$99 million in tax revenues to the City over the extended term

Environmental Review:

An environmental review is not required, since the lease extension has been determined as a Type II action under 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 Section (c) (26), which applies to license, lease and permit renewals, or transfers of ownership thereof, where there is no material change in permit conditions or the scope of permitted activities.

Request for Approval:

The lease extension is a Maritime Lease pursuant to City Charter Sections 1301 (2) (f) and (g). Transmittal documents will be submitted to Land Use Subcommittee for Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses on or about June 6, 2009.

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE
THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING
AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN MUSEUM, FOUNTAIN OF LIFE, AND TULIP TREE
ALLEE, BRONX**

June 23, 2009

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernandez, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of New York Botanical Garden Museum in the Bronx.

On October 28, 2008, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation. Six people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of the New York Botanical Garden, Municipal Art Society of New York, Historic Districts Council, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, and New York Landmarks Conservancy. On March 24, 2009, the Commission voted to designate the building and related fountain and tulip tree allee, a New York City landmark.

The grand neo-Renaissance style New York Botanical Garden Museum Building, along with the Fountain of Life and Tulip Tree Allee, form a distinguished and monumental Beaux-Arts civic space within the largest and most renowned botanical garden in the country. Founded in 1891 and located within Bronx Park, the Botanical Garden showcases one of the world's great collections of plants and serves as an educational center for gardening and horticulture. The Museum (now Library) Building, designed in 1896 by architect Robert W. Gibson and constructed in 1898-1901, originally housed the Garden's preserved botanical specimens and was the first American museum devoted solely to botany.

The long four-story structure, clad in greyish-buff brick and buff terra cotta, features a symmetrical design and classically-inspired ornament characteristic of Beaux-Arts civic buildings at the turn of the century. The energetic bronze sculptural group of the Fountain of Life (1903-05), designed by Carl (Charles) E. Tefft depicts a cherub astride a dolphin atop a globe and two web-footed plunging horses being restrained by a female and a boy, surprising a merman and mermaid in the basin below. The fountain was restored in 2005. The Tulip Tree Allee, consisting of trees lining both sides of the drives leading to the fountain, was planted in 1903-11 at the direction of Nathaniel Lord Britton, first director of the Garden.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

FOR THE RECORD

TESTIMONY OF THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF INTRO. 542-A June 23, 2009



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Elinor Ratner
Henry Hope Reed
Anne-Marie Sumner
Calvin Trillin
Jean-Claude van Itallie
George Vellonakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

Good morning ladies and gentleman. My name is Andrew Berman, and I am the Executive Director of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. GVSHP is the largest membership organization in Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo.

I am here today to express our strong support for Intro. 542-A, and our extreme gratitude to Councilmember Mendez and Lappin for their great efforts in support of this bill and to all the other co-sponsors of the legislation.

Intro. 542-A is sorely needed to correct the glaring loophole in the current law which allows the use of previously approved construction, demolition, or alteration permits after a building has been designated a landmark or part of a historic district. The current situation allows all too many developers or owners who are opposed to landmark designation to simply secure permits that would allow them to disfigure or destroy a building after landmark designation, thus thwarting the intention of designation or preventing it from happening in the first place. Too often these permits are acquired simply to avoid designation or to forestall or circumvent potential designation. In other cases permits were acquired years earlier but never used, and the mere threat or possibility of their use prevents or otherwise undermines landmark designation.

We of course recognize the rights of property owners in situations like this, and we believe the legislation as drafted does as well. As we understand it, the bill would allow owners who have pursued changes to their property in good faith before landmark designation was considered to complete those changes if they have already invested a substantial amount of money or undertaken a substantial amount of work. This is a standard similar to that applied for zoning changes in New York City, which has passed constitutional muster and been operating for many years.

In recently designated areas of our neighborhood, such as the Meatpacking District and NoHo, we have seen too many developers tear down or alter historic buildings after designation simply because they had pre-existing permits. We have seen this with individual landmarks like P.S. 64 as well, and we have seen too many cases where the Landmarks Preservation Commission has said that they will not consider designation of properties because they have outstanding demolition or alteration permits. Intro. 542-A will help address this problem. While like most bills it may not completely eradicate the problem, it is clear that it will help remedy it, and will certainly improve upon the current, unsatisfactory situation.

Thank you.

**Testimony of Venetia Lannon, Senior Vice President
New York City Economic Development Corporation
at a hearing of the New York City Council
Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses Subcommittee
June 23, 2009**

Good morning, Chair Lappin and members of the Subcommittee. My name is Venetia Lannon and I am the Senior Vice President of the Maritime Department at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (“NYCEDC”). NYCEDC is designated by the City of New York to promote economic activity and is the City’s lead entity for maritime policy and implementation.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify on the proposed maritime lease extension between the City of New York and the Port Authority of New York and Jersey (the “PA”) for the Howland Hook Marine Terminal.

Howland Hook Marine Terminal is located along the Arthur Kill on Staten Island. The approximately 200 acre terminal is the largest container terminal in New York City and the State of New York . The Site is owned by the City of New York, leased to the PA, administered by NYCEDC and subleased to the terminal operator, New York Container Terminal Inc. (“NYCT”).

Twelve years ago Howland Hook Marine Terminal reopened after a decade of inactivity. When it reopened, there was considerable skepticism that any terminal in this area of the harbor could successfully compete with the larger container terminals in New Jersey. After substantial investment by the City, the PA and by NYCT, the terminal has become the largest industrial employer on Staten Island and it is the home for over a dozen shipping lines, representing almost 18% of total container cargo volume in the Port of New York and New Jersey. Today, the proposed lease extension represents affirmation of the terminal's long-term viability.

Now, I would now like to summarize the terms of the lease extension.

The lease will be extended from 2023 to 2058. This extended period will allow the PA to amortize its investment of over \$300 million that has been made in the terminal to date. It will also provide the necessary conditions for additional investments in the terminal.

The PA will pay an annual rent of \$3.4 million for the period of 2009 to 2023. During this period, the PA has agreed to invest an additional \$110 million in capital improvements. Provided that these capital investments are

made by 2023, the PA will pay an annual rent of \$1 million plus 25% of total revenues generated from the terminal if those revenues exceed a minimum threshold.

The terms negotiated between the City and the PA were structured to guarantee that necessary capital investments will take place at Howland Hook throughout the term of the existing lease. The identified amount of capital spending has already been budgeted by the PA in its ten year capital plan.

However, if for some reason the PA does not make the minimum capital investment then the annual rent will increase to \$4.5 million escalating at 2% per year. The PA also has the option to terminate the existing lease in 2023.

This lease extension also allows NYCEDC to extend its master lease for the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal

The economic benefits of the lease extension includes the retention of the existing high-paying unionized jobs at the terminal, \$9 million in annual

payroll taxes and an additional \$99 million in tax revenues to the City over the extended term of the lease.

Howland Hook Marine Terminal represents the City's connection to the world economy. Despite the current economic downturn, world trade will continue to drive economic prosperity as it has done throughout history. More than ever, marine terminals play a vital role in the global goods movement system. Over 90% of imported goods are transported into the United States by ships; therefore cities like New York depend on the most efficient, least expensive and most environmentally sustainable mode of transportation.

Howland Hook, because its deep water channels, rail connections and proximity to regional warehouse centers is a prime marine facility as well as economic engine. To continue this success, we respectfully request the Council to approve this lease extension for the Howland Hook Marine Terminal.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.



Robert D. LiMandri
Commissioner

Stephen P. Kramer
Senior Counsel
SKramer@buildings.nyc.gov

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New York, NY 10007
www.nyc.gov/buildings

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June 23, 2009

Hon. Jessica Lappin
Council Member, 5th District
Chair, Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses Committee
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Council Member Lappin:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Intro 542-A, a bill that concerns work on proposed landmarks in New York City.

The Department of Buildings (Department) and the Landmarks Preservation Commission (Landmarks) have an excellent working relationship and cooperate on a daily basis. We have processes in place that allow Landmarks access to our Buildings Information System (BIS) so that calendared properties may be entered directly by Landmarks' staff as soon as calendaring has taken place. This is also true with respect to newly designated properties. We also send regular reports to Landmarks staff indicating job filings on calendared properties. These are both goals the proposed legislation seeks to accomplish but that in fact are already in place between the Department and Landmarks.

We have a few concerns about proposed Intro 542-A that I would like to bring to your attention. The most important concern is the possible safety implications of stopping work under permits that may be linked with important maintenance work, such as work required under chapter 3 of the Administrative Code providing that the exterior walls of all buildings greater than six stories be inspected and maintained in a safe condition. Facade inspections conducted under this provision must be conducted by a licensed professional and a report must be filed with the Department indicating the condition of the walls. Any unsafe conditions must be reported to the Department immediately and work must commence without delay. The bill would require that the owners stop performing that kind of work while awaiting a determination of whether or not substantial expenditures had been made or a determination of no effect by the Landmarks Commission.

While work performed under section 25-312 of the Administrative Code (remedying of dangerous conditions) is not covered by the bill, there is still a

safety

service

integrity



great deal of important maintenance work that protects the public and needs to be performed in a timely fashion and that would not fall under that section. Indeed, an unintended and undesirable consequence of this proposed legislation would be an extension of the need for scaffolds and sidewalk sheds at properties undergoing mandated maintenance.

This bill would also require that the Department undertake a full examination of the construction documents relating to the property. This would create a burden for the Department as it would mandate full document review for potentially hundreds of buildings that may currently be filed under professional certification. At this time, when the Department receives a permit application for a property that has been calendared, no action is taken for 40 days to give Landmarks time to act. We would prefer to maintain this time limitation in place rather than to simply preclude professional certification, a requirement that is not needed in order to accomplish the goals of this bill – to give Landmarks staff sufficient time to consider designation.

We appreciate that some of the major issues in the previous version of the bill have been addressed, but the issues we have mentioned still need to be addressed. Additionally, there are a few drafting issues with the proposed legislation that we would be happy to discuss with Council staff.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen P. Kramer".

Stephen P. Kramer

safety

service

integrity

JAMES S. ODDO

MINORITY LEADER
COUNCIL MEMBER - 50TH DISTRICT
STATEN ISLAND - BROOKLYN

□ DISTRICT OFFICE
90 LINCOLN AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306
(718) 980-1117
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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CHAIR
TASK FORCE ON OPERATIONS & IMPROVEMENT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

COMMITTEES
FINANCE
HOUSING & BUILDINGS
RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS

June 22, 2009

Honorable Jessica Lappin
Chair
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses
330 East 63rd Street, Suite 1K
New York, NY 10065

Dear Council Member Lappin

We write to express our full support for the Lease Amendment ("Amendment") between the City of New York and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey ("PA") for Howland Hook Marine Terminal ("Terminal") on Staten Island.

As you know, the Terminal, operated by the New York Container Terminal ("NYCT"), is approximately 200 acres, which makes it the largest container terminal in New York State and New York City. Employing 555 individuals, the NYCT is the largest industrial employer on Staten Island. The jobs are good paying jobs and the majority are union jobs that enable employees to live and work on Staten Island and in the rest of New York City. It is not hyperbole to say that the NYCT is a vital and necessary part of Staten Island's economy. In fact, it is our understanding that this lease extension will provide an additional \$99 million in tax revenue over the term of the extended term.

As an island, it is important for our maritime services industry to continue to grow and create high paying jobs. We are engaged in a concerted effort to bring more economic activity within this sector to Staten Island. The extension of the NYCT is a crucial part of that effort.

We thank you and the entire Land Use staff for all of your efforts to make this Lease Amendment a reality. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions.

Very truly yours,

James S. Oddo
Minority Leader

Vincent Ignizio
Minority Whip

Kenneth Mitchell
Council Member, 49th District

cc: Council Member Melinda Katz, Chair, Land Use Committee
Speaker Christine Quinn

Lease Amendment (the "Amendment") between the City of New York and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey ("PA") for Howland Hook Marine Terminal (the "Terminal"), Staten Island

Site Location:

Howland Hook Marine Terminal is located along the Arthur Kill on Staten Island. The approximately 200 acre terminal is the largest container terminal in New York State and New York City. The Site is owned by the City of New York ("City"), leased to the PA, administered by New York City Economic Development Corporation ("NYCEDC") and subleased to the terminal operator, New York Container Terminal Inc. ("NYCT").

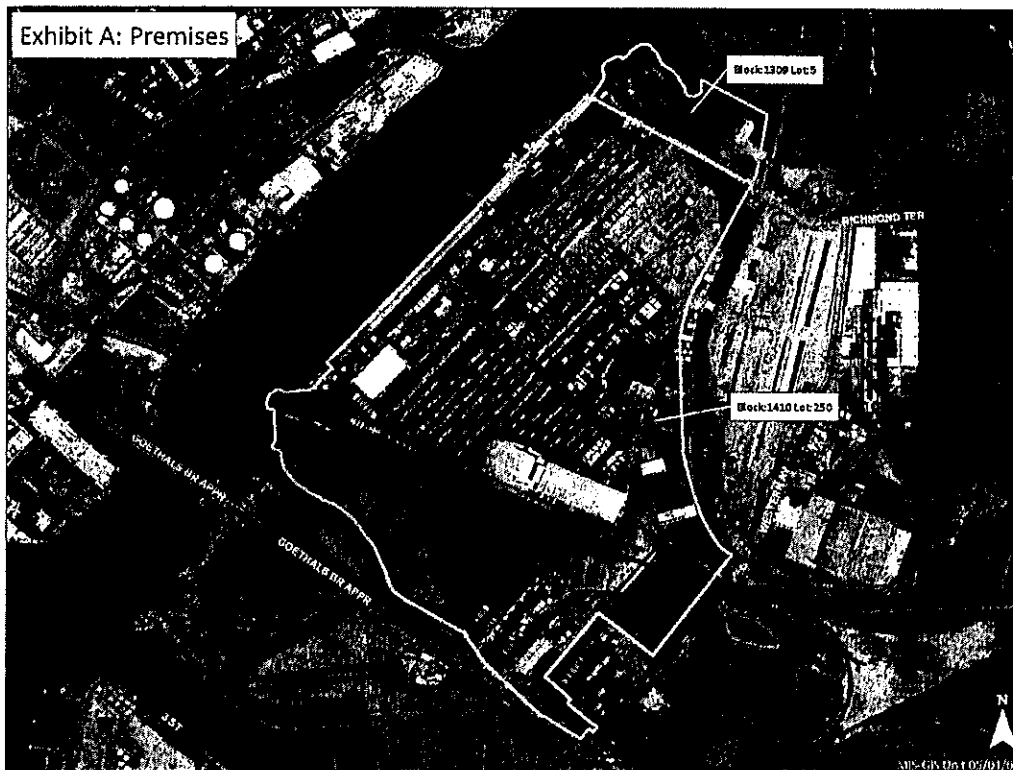


Figure 1 – Howland Hook Marine Terminal

History:

- 1974- 1985 Lease between U.S. Lines and the City
- 1985- 2023 Lease between PA and the City
- 1985-1995 Terminal closed due to bankruptcy of U.S. Lines
- 1996 Terminal reopened and operation commenced by NYCT
- 1996- 2019 Sublease between NYCT and PA
- 2007 PA requested a 25 year lease extension to amortize a \$350+ million investment in the facility
- 2007-2009 lease negotiation between PA and NYCEDC
- 2009 final terms have been reached

Business Terms:

- Lease will be extended from July 2023 to July 2058
- For the period starting with the effective date of the 2009 lease amendment through July 2023, the PA will pay an annual rent of \$3,377,052.84, which is the rent amount for the lease year of 2008
- During the term of the current lease, PA shall make Capital Investment in the amount not less than \$110,000,000
- During the term of the extension
 - a) provided that Capital Investment has been made, PA will pay an annual rent of \$1,000,000 plus 25% of total revenues generated to the PA from the Terminal that exceed a minimum threshold
 - b) provided that Capital Investment has not been made, PA will pay an annual rent of \$4,500,508.99 escalating at 2% per year.
- If the full Capital Investment is not made during the term of the existing lease, the PA shall have the option to terminate the lease so that it does not extend beyond 2023. If the PA exercises its option to terminate, NYCEDC shall no longer have the option to extend the master lease with the PA for the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal after 2029.

Economic Benefits:

- NYCT is the largest industrial employer on Staten Island, currently employing 555 people
- NYCT represents approximately 18% of total container port volume (540,000 TEUs/year)
- NYCT pays \$9 million per year in annual payroll taxes
- Lease extension will provide an additional \$99 million in tax revenues to the City over the extended term

Environmental Review:

An environmental review is not required, since the lease extension has been determined as a Type II action under 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 Section (c) (26), which applies to license, lease and permit renewals, or transfers of ownership thereof, where there is no material change in permit conditions or the scope of permitted activities.

Request for Approval:

The lease extension is a Maritime Lease pursuant to City Charter Sections 1301 (2) (f) and (g). Transmittal documents will be submitted to Land Use Subcommittee for Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses on or about May 28, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

LOCAL 920



2015 FOREST AVENUE
SUITE C2
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10303
TEL: 718-720-6234
FAX: 718-720-3812
© 54

JAMES STOLPINSKI
President
Business Manager

June 2, 2009

Council Member Melinda R. Katz
The New York City Council
District 29
Legislative Office
250 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Council Member Katz:

The purpose of this correspondence is to express the support of Local 920 of the International Longshoremen's Association for the resolution that will be coming before City Council requesting its support for a lease extension between New York City and the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey covering the Howland Hook Marine Terminal on Staten Island.

We are writing to support this resolution because of the importance that this lease extension will have in prompting the Port Authority to continue to make investments in this, New York's last major marine terminal in the Greater New York harbor. This particular facility employs on average over 500 longshoremen, the majority of which belong to Local 920. I am confident that this resolution is also supported by the other Locals covering the balance of the employees at the facility as well as by the International. It is important that The New York City Council recognize the need of doing everything in its power to protect the working waterfront within this harbor. Together, with my members of my Local, I strongly urge you to support this critical resolution.

Sincerely,

For August Spagnuolo

James Stolpinski

JS/vr

cc: Andrew Genn, Vice President
New York City Economic Development Corporation

Arie Van Tol, Manager New York Marine Terminals
The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey

James Devine, President and CEO
New York Container Terminal

City of New York

1 Edgewater Plaza, Suite 217 • Staten Island, New York 10305

Tel: 718-981-6900

Fax: 718-720-1342

Community Board No. 1

June 12, 2009

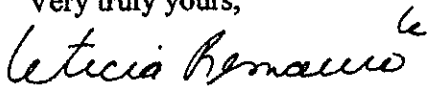
Mr. Andrew Genn,
New York City Economic Development Corporation
110 William Street
New York, New York 10038

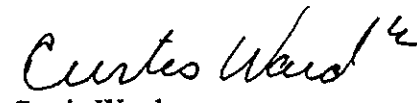
Dear Mr. Genn:

On June 9, 2009 Community Board #1 voted 34-0-1 to support the lease extension between the City of New York and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey for Howland Hook Marine Terminal, Staten Island as presented to the Waterfront Committee on June 8, 2009.

As always, thank you for your concern for and interest in our community.

Very truly yours,


Leticia Remauro
Chairwoman

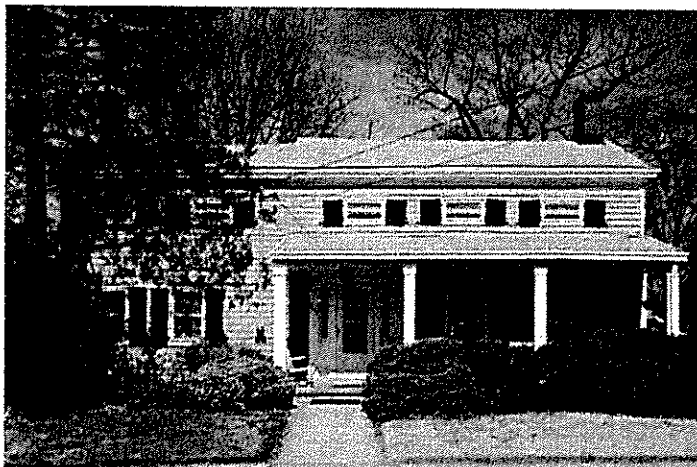

Curtis Ward
Waterfront Chairman

LR:lc

SPEAKER'S OFFICE
THE RUTAN-JOURNEY HOUSE, 7647 Amboy Road, Staten Island
Built c. 1848; architect unknown

Landmark Site: Borough of Richmond, Tax Map Block 8050 Lot 13

On December 12, 2006, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Rutan-Journey House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 2). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Four witnesses spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of the Preservation League of Staten Island, the Tottenville Historical Society, the Historic Districts Council and the 4 Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance. No one spoke in opposition. The Commission also received a statement of support from the Metropolitan Chapter of The Victorian Society of America.¹



Summary

The Rutan-Journey House at 7647 Amboy Road, built ca. 1848, is a rare survivor of early Tottenville, an important 19th-century town on Staten Island's South Shore. This vernacular clapboard cottage merges older local building traditions with newer Greek Revival modes. Its doorway and porch are excellent examples of the Greek Revival style. The front porch features four square pillars and simple, but sophisticated, railings, in original condition. Sharing architectural forms with other early Tottenville houses, it is one of the best-preserved houses representing the early building traditions of Staten Island's South Shore.

The Rutan-Journey House is one of the earliest documented houses of newly created Tottenville, and the first on Amboy Road. Through its first two owners the house has close ties to the shipbuilding industry, which flourished in Tottenville from its beginnings in the 1840s through the early 20th century. Shipbuilding and ship repair were important partners of the oyster industry that created the town.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Tottenville

Tottenville is located on the shore of the Arthur Kill near Ward's Point, the southwestern tip of Staten Island and the southernmost point in New York City and New York State. Far from the urban culture of Manhattan, Tottenville remains an isolated village. Across the Arthur Kill lies the city of Perth Amboy, New Jersey. South of Ward's Point is the Raritan Bay. The village of Tottenville came into being around 1840. Its economy and culture arose from oyster fishing, shipbuilding and ship repair, and agriculture. Its trade routes with New Jersey and New York City linked it to the metropolitan region and the greater world. It became the largest town in Westfield, the historic name for this quarter of Staten Island. Even today, though encroached upon by modern suburban culture, the feeling of a small coastal town prevails with characteristics unlike any other place on Staten Island. Tottenville residents prize their isolated location.

Before There Was Tottenville

Long before Europeans arrived in the New World, Native Americans of the Leni Lenape group of the Delaware Nation were attracted to the beauty of the elevated shoreline and the abundance of oysters growing in the Arthur Kill and Raritan Bay. Major archaeological evidence of their encampments and burial grounds has been found on Ward's Point. By 1670 the Lenape had sold their land to European colonists and had departed from Staten Island.

Christopher Billopp, an Englishman, was the first European to settle in the area. He arrived in New York harbor with Major Edmund Andros in 1674. Andros became the Royal Governor of New York and Billopp, an officer in the British navy, was commissioned Lieutenant. In 1677 Billopp laid claim to 932 acres on Staten Island, soon thereafter building an imposing two-story stone house on the shore overlooking Perth Amboy. In 1687 he was given a royal charter for 1600 acres (including the original 932 acres) and made Lord of the Manor of Bentley. The manor would include today's Tottenville, Richmond Valley, Pleasant Plains and part of Prince's Bay. Billopp owned slaves and as captain of the ship *Depthford* he was involved in the slave trade.² Although Billopp stayed on Staten Island only intermittently, his wife apparently lived in the manor house and improved his land for farming. His grandson Thomas Farmar, who changed his surname to Billopp, inherited the manor in 1732 and lived there full time. Thomas Farmar Billopp also owned slaves.³ Thomas's son Christopher Billopp (1732-1827) lived in the stone house through much of the American Revolution. During his ownership the house was plundered by both Hessian soldiers and American patriots and Christopher sought refuge in his father-in-law's house nearby. During one of these raids the patriots carried off Billopp's cattle, horses and a slave. Little else is known about the actual daily life of the manor. The Billopp House was the meeting place for the Peace Conference held on Sept. 11, 1776. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Edward Rutledge met with Lord Howe. The conference was unsuccessful and the war continued. (Today the Billopp House, a designated New York City Landmark, is called the Conference House.) In 1782 Christopher Billopp began to sell large portions of the manor. Among the buyers were members of the Totten family. In 1783 Billopp left Staten Island.⁴

The Totten Family

John Totten (d. 1785), a weaver, was probably the first Totten to settle on Staten Island. In 1767 he purchased land on Prince's Bay from the executors of the estate of Thomas Billopp.⁵ Gilbert Totten (ca. 1740-1819), John Totten's son, purchased four parcels in what would become

Tottenville. Gilbert was a farmer and according to the 1790 census owned five slaves. Gilbert and Mary Butler Totten, his wife, were among the founders of the Woodrow Methodist Church, the mother church of Methodism on Staten Island. Impressive Greek Revival obelisks mark their graves in the church's cemetery.

Tottenville, the Town the Oyster Built

Gilbert Totten's home farm was in the northeastern part of what would become Tottenville. Gilbert and Mary were the parents of eight children. One of their sons, John Totten Sr. (1771-1846), also a farmer, married Anne (Nancy) Cole (1773-1840) and had 12 children, five of whom can be documented as significant to Tottenville's history. They are James Totten (1797-1879), blacksmith; John Totten Jr. (1801-1872), oysterman; Abraham C. Totten (1804-1877), "mariner"; Ephraim J. Totten (1806-1891), sea captain and merchant; and William Totten (b.1813), shipbuilder and shipyard superintendent. These vocations clearly indicate the family's affiliation with oyster fishing and maritime trades.

The creation and growth of Tottenville in the 1840s were fueled by the increasing demand for fresh oysters. As New York's population grew and oyster beds became depleted from over harvesting it was discovered that oyster "seed" (young oysters) could be brought from other locations in New York harbor, Long Island, and the Chesapeake Bay and "planted" in the waters off Staten Island. The brackish water of Prince's Bay and parts of the Raritan River and the Arthur Kill was ideal for growing oysters. The young oysters were allowed to grow for a year or more and harvested in the fall. The success of this systematic oyster "farming" fostered the growth of Staten Island's maritime industry. The first documented instance of oyster planting in New York harbor occurred in 1825 in Prince's Bay.⁶

Other parts Staten Island, including Mariner's Harbor, also grew at a swift pace through the 19th century because of this industry. Sandy Ground, the African American community also in Westfield, came into being about 1850. By 1880 African American oystermen from Virginia and Maryland had located there. Tottenville also attracted several black oystermen. The Cooley family from Virginia settled in Tottenville after Abraham Cole Totten, a mariner sailing regularly to the South, sold them property. Residences of other free black oystermen have recently been identified in a survey of Tottenville.⁷

According to one local history, the name "Tottenville" may have been in use as early as 1832.⁸ The Bethel Methodist Church, Tottenville's first church, was built in 1841 on land given by John Totten Sr. The church was a social as well as a religious center. In 1852 one of their famous oyster suppers netted \$275.10.⁹ The first printed reference to the name "Tottenville" is found on Butler's Map of 1853. This map shows an unnamed street, today's Main Street, leading to "Totten's Landing," with about 20 houses, and another 20 houses on what became Amboy Road.

Oystermen required ships and ship repair facilities and this industry became a dominant employer in the town, second only to the oyster industry itself. By the end of the 19th century there were at least eight shipbuilding or repair shops on the Arthur Kill in Tottenville.¹⁰ The first of these, Butler and Sleight's Shipyard, located near today's Ward's Point, may have begun operation as early as 1833 when the land was purchased by Daniel Butler.¹¹ William Totten's shipyard beside Totten's Landing probably began operation soon after he and his brother James purchased their waterfront site in 1836.¹² The William H. and James M. Rutan Shipyard began about 1847.¹³ The site of the Rutan Shipyard adjoins the Henry H. Biddle House, (a designated New York City Landmark). James M. Rutan built 7647 Amboy Road in 1848.

These early Tottenville ship repair and shipbuilding companies were built for small wooden vessels. Each facility had a "marine railway" to bring the boats onto the shore. The

railway consisted of two iron rails running from the beach out into the water. A boat would be moved into position over the rails and then pulled by teams of horses toward the shallow water into a cradle and up onto the beach. The largest boats were schooners, large two-masted sailing vessels that could go down the coast to Virginia to secure Chesapeake Bay oyster seed or even to England with fresh oysters. Sloops and catboats were smaller sailing vessels with one mast. Skiffs were light enough to be rowed.

The further growth and diversification of Tottenville were assured in 1860 when it became the terminus of the Staten Island Railroad, which afforded access to Staten Island's North Shore and Manhattan. For many decades the Staten Island Railroad operated the ferryboat *Maid of Perth* to Perth Amboy. Several hotels/boarding houses were located in Tottenville on Main Street near Totten's Landing. By the 1880s Tottenville had entered the golden age of oyster fishing, as the following period source indicates:

To arrive in Tottenville is to become sensible of the importance of the oyster. Anchored out in the Kill; made fast to the little wharves; under sail in the offing, white-hulled oyster sloops meet the eye on every side. Below the bluffs, the beach is lined with oyster floats, upon which the bivalves in the fall are taken to the fresher waters of New Jersey rivers to be fattened for the market; oyster shells are everywhere. The largest and most comfortable houses in and about the village, we are told, belong to oystermen, active and retired, whose modest fortunes have been raked from the great oyster-beds covering the bottom of the Lower Bay from Staten Island to Keyport. Here the oyster is king.¹⁴

A major new industry, Atlantic Terra Cotta, opened its factory in Tottenville in 1897. By 1906 it employed over 450 men. The Tottenville Copper Company, also a large employer, was established in 1900. Later it became the Nassau Smelting Company.¹⁵ The oyster industry, and shipbuilding and ship repair, continued into the 20th century.¹⁶

Oyster beds were declared unsafe due to water pollution. About 1915 "authorities found that some shipments from the bay were making people as far away as Chicago sick with typhoid fever and intestinal diseases.... New York dealers became reluctant to purchase oysters from the bay. The industry declined, and finally in 1925 oyster planters abandoned the bay amid much negative newspaper publicity about polluted oysters being sold."¹⁷ The closing marked the end of an era.

The rise of the automobile brought suburban life and more change. The Outerbridge Crossing opened in 1928. The opening of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in 1964 and the construction of interstate highways on Staten Island fostered rapid population growth on the South Shore. Tottenville has been discovered by upwardly mobile homeowners seeking a suburban retreat.

Early Owners of 7647 Amboy Road

James Madison Rutan (1816-1914), the original owner of 7647 Amboy Road, was born near Tottenville. His parents were Henry Seguine Rutan and Rachel Kingsland Rutan, both formerly of New Jersey. The Rutan family had immigrated to America from France in the late 18th century. Henry arrived on Staten Island as a youth in 1809. He was a ship carpenter and c. 1820 established a ship repair business near Rossville, Staten Island.¹⁸ James M. and his older brother, William Henry Rutan, (1814-1869) were ship carpenters like their father.¹⁹ In 1847 William Henry Rutan purchased property on the Arthur Kill waterfront near today's Biddle House and soon added to it, establishing there a ship repair and shipbuilding business. The 1855 census lists William H. and J. M. Rutan as "shipbuilders," having real estate valued at \$4000,

tools and machinery, \$2000, 10,000 cubic feet of timber, \$4200, 30,000 feet of plank and 156 tons of iron valued at \$1200. During the previous year they had built a 300-ton schooner valued at \$10,000 and repaired 50 other schooners or sloops, work estimated at \$4500. With 12 employees they are the largest employer listed for that part of Westfield.²⁰

After his brother's death in 1869, James M. Rutan carried on the business with his son and brother-in-law. Their younger brother, Melancthon F. Rutan (1829-1908), was also a ship carpenter. The business was sold in 1880.²¹ James M. Rutan and other members of the Rutan family are buried in the Bethel Methodist Church Cemetery.²² All evidence of the shipyard has disappeared from the Arthur Kill beach.

James M. Rutan married Leah Crocheron in 1840. They lived at 7647 Amboy Road for several years and later at 76 Satterlee Avenue opposite the shipyard. William H. Rutan and his wife Mary Johnson Cole Rutan lived nearby at 5 Shore Road, an historic house now owned by the New York City Parks Department.

On March 25, 1850, John S. Journey, a prosperous blacksmith, purchased 7647 Amboy Road from James M. Rutan. Born in New York, Journey was about 30 years old and married to Maria B. Journey.²³ A progenitor of the Journey family arrived in America on the *Spotted Cow* in 1663. Members of the family are found on Staten Island as early as 1678.²⁴ It has not been determined which branch of the Journey family, John S. Journey was descended from. All branches of the Journey family living on Staten Island, according to the 1790 census, owned slaves. Several families of this name lived in Westfield in the 19th century.

The 1855 Census lists the Journey and Lamond Company as "ship blacksmiths." Walling's map of 1859 shows "Journey's Shipyard" on the Arthur Kill east of Totten's wharf. The little that is known about John S. Journey and members of his family can be gleaned from entries in the 1860 Census for Westfield. They describe John S. Journey as "Boss Blacksmith" with real property valued at \$2000 and personal property at \$400. Also listed is Robert S. Journey, aged 35, as "Boss Ship Builder." Perhaps John S, the blacksmith, and Robert S., the shipbuilder, are partners in Journey's Shipyard. David Journey, aged 69, is listed as a blacksmith as well, with real estate valued at \$5000. Perhaps he was the father and partner in this blacksmithing, shipbuilding family.

John S. Journey's second wife, Isabel, born in England of Scotch parents²⁵, inherited the house after John's death ca. 1890. The 1900 Census indicates that three family members and three boarders were living in the household. One boarder was a machinist at the S. S. White Dental Factory, Prince's Bay, and another a cigar salesman.

The Design of 7847 Amboy Road

The house at 7647 Amboy Road was constructed around 1848 as a simple three-bay, one and one-half story, clapboard cottage. Its rectangular plan of hall and parlor, with gable roof and end placement of the chimney, follows a tradition of vernacular residential architecture on Staten Island since the first houses appeared in the late 17th century. Its modernity is found in its wide Greek Revival doorway and porch. Its small second-story windows reflect both vernacular building traditions and the Greek Revival style. The front porch is original. The wing on the west side was probably added in 1850 when Rutan acquired an additional 12 feet on the west side of his lot. A lean-to was added behind the west wing sometime later in the 19th century and four wings were built onto the rear of the house in the 20th century.

The small second-story windows are likely a holdover from Dutch vernacular house framing of the 18th century, with which the builder may have been familiar and which more up-to-date builders had rejected. The Dutch farmhouse frame was composed of "bents," whose

vertical posts extend well above the first floor, but not to a full floor height on the second floor. The small windows are made possible by this low wall space.²⁶

The small second-story windows also relate to the “eyebrow windows” of the Greek Revival style seen in Staten Island houses of the 1830s and 1840s. Eyebrow windows may be seen in the Stephens House and Store, (a designated New York City Landmark) at Historic Richmond Town. Here at the Rutan-Journey House they are not placed in the frieze, to light the attic, but are in the main wall below it. A design for a farmhouse in Minard Lafever’s *Young Builder’s General Instructor* (1829) shows three small horizontally shaped windows placed below the frieze and an illustration of “an unimproved farmhouse” (i.e. old-fashioned) from A. J. Downing’s *Albany Cultivator* (1846) shows three windows similar to Lafever’s placed well below the frieze.

The horizontality of the house, emphasized by the front wing, reflects the farmhouse tradition more than the village or town traditions and underscores the rural atmosphere of early Tottenville. The lot, which is wider than the usual 25-foot village lot, allowed the builder to place the wide elevation of the house across the front. This long front placement of the house is, however, also seen on several other smaller Tottenville lots. The Theodore F. and Elizabeth J. DeHart House, (a designated New York City Landmark) at 134 Main Street built in 1849, is of a very similar design and construction. Here we see the same broad placement of the house on the lot, the Greek Revival doorway, the low second-floor windows, and the adjoining wing. In this house the original porch (probably with square Greek Revival columns) was replaced in the 1870s by an elaborate wraparound porch with beveled-edge posts and cutwork decoration. The similarities of the two houses suggest a common carpenter-builder.

Although the name of the builder who constructed the Rutan-Journey House and the DeHart House is not documented, Isaac P. Bedell, a “house carpenter” active in Tottenville at this time, seems a likely candidate. Israel Butler, a Richmond Valley carpenter, could also have been the builder.²⁷

The Greek Revival style was first used by builders on Staten Island in the 1830s in public buildings like Sailors’ Snug Harbor (1831) and the Third County Courthouse at Richmond (1837). (The Third County Courthouse and portions of Sailors’ Snug Harbor are designated New York City Landmarks.) Private residences include simple three-bay houses from the late 1830s in Stapleton and Richmond. Jasper Cropsey (1823-1900), the Hudson River School painter who grew up in Rossville and practiced architecture briefly, designed the Greek Revival Moravian Church in New Dorp in 1843. By 1850 this style was no longer new, but its popularity continued. The Greek Revival style, chosen for the earliest buildings in Tottenville, is also exemplified in the large porticoed houses earlier mentioned, the William H. Rutan House (ca. 1848) and the Henry H. Biddle House.

Although plan books by Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever popularized the Greek Revival style throughout America, rarely did local builders use plans exactly as presented, rather they chose aspects of the designs that suited their needs and mixed designs freely. Lafever presented only two complete houses in *Modern Builder’s Guide* (1833). Daniel D. Reiff in *Houses from Books* (2001) states, “most Greek Revival houses are very different from Lafever’s two plates. In fact, one of the most popular vernacular types for farmhouses and small urban dwellings has very little in common with either Lafever design: no freestanding columns, one rather than two wings, and an abbreviated pediment with the horizontal member interrupted to allow the insertion of windows in the half-story above.”²⁸

Later Owners of 7647 Amboy Road

Mabelle Fried became the owner of the house upon Isabel Journey's death in 1907. No further information is available about her. On Nov. 11, 1919, David H. Couch and Esther Couch, his wife, purchased the house from Mabelle S. Fried of Manhattan. David, supervisor of an asphalt company, was born in North Carolina. His wife was born in Ohio.²⁹ On Jan. 19, 1921, William H. Brown Sr. purchased the property. Brown was a shipbuilder and owner of Brown's Shipyard in Tottenville.³⁰ Residing on Hopping Avenue nearby, he probably purchased the house for his son William H. Brown Jr. or as an investment. On June 9, 1925, Heyward E. Canney and Olive Ring Cannery, his wife, of Eltingville, Staten Island, purchased the property. Howard, a "private bank secretary," was born in Massachusetts.³¹

On March 23, 1934, Mary L. Tiethohl, of Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, purchased the house.³² She was a Tottenville High School teacher.³³ On Jan. 30, 1970, Richard S. Wilson and Gail, his wife, became the owners³⁴ and on Feb. 1, 1984 John and Allida Scotti, the present owners, purchased the house.³⁵

Description

The house at 7647 Amboy Road is a five-bay clapboard cottage with a four-columned porch. It rests on a low foundation that is today hidden from view by shrubs. Two wings were added in the 19th century: one on the west parallel with the main block and a lean-to in the back. In the 20th century an early kitchen wing was probably removed and four additions were made in the rear of the house.

The main block of the house is one and one-half stories, three bays wide and two bays deep. It has a gable roof, the long side facing the street. One brick chimney stands on the east end. All the roofs are clad in a light grey, non-historic asphalt shingles. A single-story porch with a shed roof extends across the front. The walls are sheathed with clapboard painted blue. The exposure of the clapboard varies from four to six inches. The two first-floor sash windows on the front are six-over-six panes as is a single window on the east elevation. The windows have plain architraves and sills. Three small second-floor windows facing the front are made of a single sash, three panes wide. They are placed well below the frieze. Two six-over-six second-floor sash windows are located on the east end. The front windows have original black-painted, solid paneled shutters with wrought iron tie backs. Modern white-painted aluminum storm windows cover all the sash. Shutters on the east elevation are reproductions.

On the primary façade the single-story porch is supported by four square columns in the Greek Revival style. It has a beautifully simple handrail with delicate square spindles. The hollow columns are marked at the bottom with two-tiered stepped bases and at the top by capitals composed of multiple moldings increasing in size as they reach upward. The handrail is composed of two pieces, a half-round board attached to the top edge of the rail. The bottom rail is peaked to shed water and the spindles are cut to join the peak. The porch floor is of contemporary flagstone with a brick border. The ceiling of the porch is made of the original tightly fitted wide planks. The porch posts support a plain entablature, above which is the Yankee gutter. The porch posts and railing are in remarkably fine condition.

The porch is one step up from the sidewalk. The front doorway sheltered by the porch is in the Greek Revival style with plain broad outer pilasters supporting the entablature and narrower pilasters directly beside the door opening. The pilasters have simple blocked bases and capitals. Between the pilasters are narrow sidelights of three glass panes. Below the panes is a coffered panel. The shallow entablature is divided by one molding. The cornice is composed of two moldings. The original six-paneled door is behind the modern aluminum storm door.

A shallow undivided frieze marks the wall of the main block. The cornice holds the Yankee gutter. This cornice-gutter has a classical return at each end. The gutter and frieze are reproductions of the original.

On the east façade of the main block the exposure of the clapboard varies from seven to eight and one-half inches. The gable end of the roof extends very slightly and is strengthened with a single molding.

The north façade is partially hidden by the kitchen addition. There is a six-over-six sash window on the first floor near the corner of the building. On the second floor window there is a modern sash, with two-over-two horizontal panes. The second floor window is near the middle of the wall. The west façade is hidden by the west wing.

The west wing, also of one and one-half stories, is joined against the main block and flush with its façade. Like the main block, the wing has a gable roof, although the pitch of the roof is about one foot lower. This is not noticed at first glance from the street. On the first floor facing the street are two six-over-six sash windows slightly smaller than those of the main block. On the second floor there are two small three-pane windows like those of the main block. The west elevation has a single six-over-six pane window on the first floor near the rear of the wing. The second floor has two six-over-six pane windows evenly spaced within the wall. The windows have black painted shutters held back by wrought iron tie backs. The exposure of the clapboard vary from eight to nine inches.

Directly behind the west wing and flush with it is a one-story rear addition. This addition is one bay deep and has a single six-over-six window on the west elevation. The north and east elevation of the lean-to are hidden by later additions.

Adjoining the lean-to in the rear is a one-room addition built ca. 1984 from the design of architect Donald Rowe. Plans for this addition are in the Building Department. Originally intended as a dining room, it is now used as a bedroom. This one-story addition has a shed roof sloping to the west. The west façade of the wing is set back slightly from the west façade of the lean-to. The siding is flush vertical boards. The west façade has one horizontal window of two horizontal panes. The north façade facing the back yard has a three-part shallow bay window. The south elevation is hidden by the lean-to and the east elevation is hidden by an eastern wing.

Attached to the main block in the rear is a two-story wing with a gable roof. It is nearly square in plan with one bay on each side. This wing provides part of a modern kitchen on the first floor and a bathroom on the second floor. It is enclosed by other parts of the house on the first floor and exposed on three sides on the second floor. There is one small window on each of the three exposed sides. A modern glass bay window for plants covers the north window. The siding is clapboard.

Extending out from the two-story rear wing alongside the northwest wing is a one-story gable roof addition with skylights. The south and west elevations are hidden by other parts of the building. The north elevation holds a large double window and a door leading onto a terrace. A shallow continuous hood extends over both the door and windows. The east elevation has a single vertical batten door with small window in it.

Extending out from the east side of the two-story rear wing is an addition to the kitchen. This addition, added in 1987, has a shed roof with skylights. The south and west elevations are enclosed by other parts of the house. The north elevation is partly exposed with a triangular window near the roof line. The east elevation has a double window.

The house is located on a deep rectangular, slightly irregular lot with a frontage of 67 feet. The east boundary is 214.8 feet, the west 209.8 feet and the rear 74.8 feet. The lot slopes slightly upward from the street and downward beyond the house to the back yard. The house stands about 15 feet from the modern sidewalk. The front porch is approached by a modern

concrete sidewalk. The asphalt driveway leads to a free-standing modern non-historic one-car garage. In the back yard there is a small modern non-historic garden house. It stands midway near the western boundary. It has two bays, a door and window, with a gable roof facing the house and a flat roof addition in the rear.

Report researched and written by
Barnett Shepherd
Consultant

NOTES

¹ The building was previously heard on October 1, 1991 (LP-1865).

² William T. Davis, *The Conference or Billopp House: Staten Island New York* (Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Science Press Printing Company, 1926). Billopp's will states: "and further it is my will that Negroes should go and be to the use of such as by my will shall come to inherit my said premises of Bentley..." Davis, 94. Davis, 73, recounts the *Depthford* seizing the *Providence* carrying two hundred seventeen enslaved Angolans and selling them at St. Christopher's, Monserrat and New York City.

³ Davis, 119.

⁴ "Conference House: A History of the Billopp House of Staten Island," by J[ackie] Haley, NYC Parks Department Museum Consultant. This unpublished, undated (ca. 2005) manuscript in the possession of Barnett Shepherd provides information about the Billopps.

⁵ For Totten's purchase of the Property see: Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber D, p. 584. A formal history of the Totten family of Staten Island has not been written. Several unpublished papers on the Totten family are in vertical files at the Staten Island Historical Society. Three published sources provided information. Charles W. Leng and William T. Davis, *Staten Island and Its People: A History, 1609-1929*, v. 3 (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1930), 14, provides concise information. Rosemary Fitzgerald, "Artist John Bradley and the Totten Portraits," *Staten Island Historian*, (January 1971), 42-44, is more comprehensive. Marjorie Scribner Wilcox, *The Tottens of America* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1994), is a recent study of a midwestern branch of the Totten family. She states that Silas Totten, who settled on Long Island from England, was the father of Gilbert Totten.

⁶ Clyde L. MacKenzie Jr., *The Fisheries of Raritan Bay* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1992), 38.

⁷ Barnett Shepherd, "How Sandy Ground Began and Flourished," in Lois A. H. Mosley, *Sandy Ground Memories* (Staten Island: Staten Island Historical Society, 2003), 15-33. A photograph of the Cooley House is in the Staten Island Historical Society photography file for Tottenville Residence, Box 4. See also the forthcoming book, Barnett Shepherd, *Tottenville: The Town the Oyster Built A Staten Island Community Its People, Industry and Architecture* (Staten Island: Preservation League of Staten Island, Tottenville Historical Society, 2009).

⁸ Leng and Davis, v. 3, 14.

⁹ A. Y. Hubbell, *The History of Methodism and the Methodist Churches of Staten Island* (New York: Richmond Pub. Co. 1898), 62.

¹⁰ Richard M. Bayles, *History of Richmond County, (Staten Island) New York, From Its Discovery to the Present Time* (New York: L. E. Preston & Co., 1887), 703.

¹¹ Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber V, p. 349.

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- ¹² Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber 2, p. 157.
- ¹³ Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber 16, p. 466.
- ¹⁴ *Picturesque Staten Island, Gateway to New York Harbor In Pen and Pencil* (1886), 30.
- ¹⁵ Charles L. Sachs, *Made on Staten Island: Agriculture, Industry, and Suburban Living in the City* (Staten Island: Staten Island Historical Society, 1988), 71, 99.
- ¹⁶ Mark Kurlansky, *The Big Oyster, History on the Half Shell* (New York: Random House, 2006), 244 tells the story of the decline of the oyster industry.
- ¹⁷ MacKenzie, 148.
- ¹⁸ Bayles, 703.
- ¹⁹ *Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850*, New York, Richmond County, Westfield, p. 255, items 394-453 and 395-454.
- ²⁰ *New York State Census, Richmond County, Westfield, 1855*, "Industry Other Than Agriculture."
- ²¹ Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber 132, p. 446.
- ²² Royden Woodward Vosburgh, *Staten Island Gravestone Inscriptions*, v. II, 1925, Bethel Methodist Church, Nos. 235, 236, 973, 1160, and 1161. Typescript.
- ²³ *Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860*, New York, Richmond County, Westfield, p. 253, item 1818.
- ²⁴ Bayles, 547-548.
- ²⁵ *Population Schedules of the Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*, p. 5, item 33-40, and *Population Schedules of the Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*, sheet No. 9, item 195-202.
- ²⁶ John R. Stevens, *Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, 1640-1830* (West Hurley, New York: Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture, 2005). Measured drawings of the Daniel Winne House, 1751, p. 427, shows the framing structure of bents.
- ²⁷ *New York State Census, Richmond County, Westfield, 1855*, "Industry Other Than Agriculture" lists both Isaac P. Bedell and Israel Butler as carpenters.
- ²⁸ Daniel D. Reiff, *Houses from Books: Treatises, Pattern Books, and Catalogs in American Architecture, 1733-1950, A History and Guide* (University Park, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000), 55.
- ²⁹ *Population Schedules of the Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*, New York, Richmond County, Westfield, sheet No. 4, item 63-65.
- ³⁰ *Population Schedules of the Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*, New York, Richmond County, Westfield, sheet No. 10, item 187-196.
- ³¹ *Population Schedules of the Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*, New York, Richmond County, Westfield, sheet No. 4A, item 64-65.
- ³² Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber 757, p. 470.
- ³³ Interview with Allida Scotti, April 2, 2007.
- ³⁴ Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber 1891, p. 337.
- ³⁵ Richmond County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber/reel 23, p. 3198.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Rutan-Journey House has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

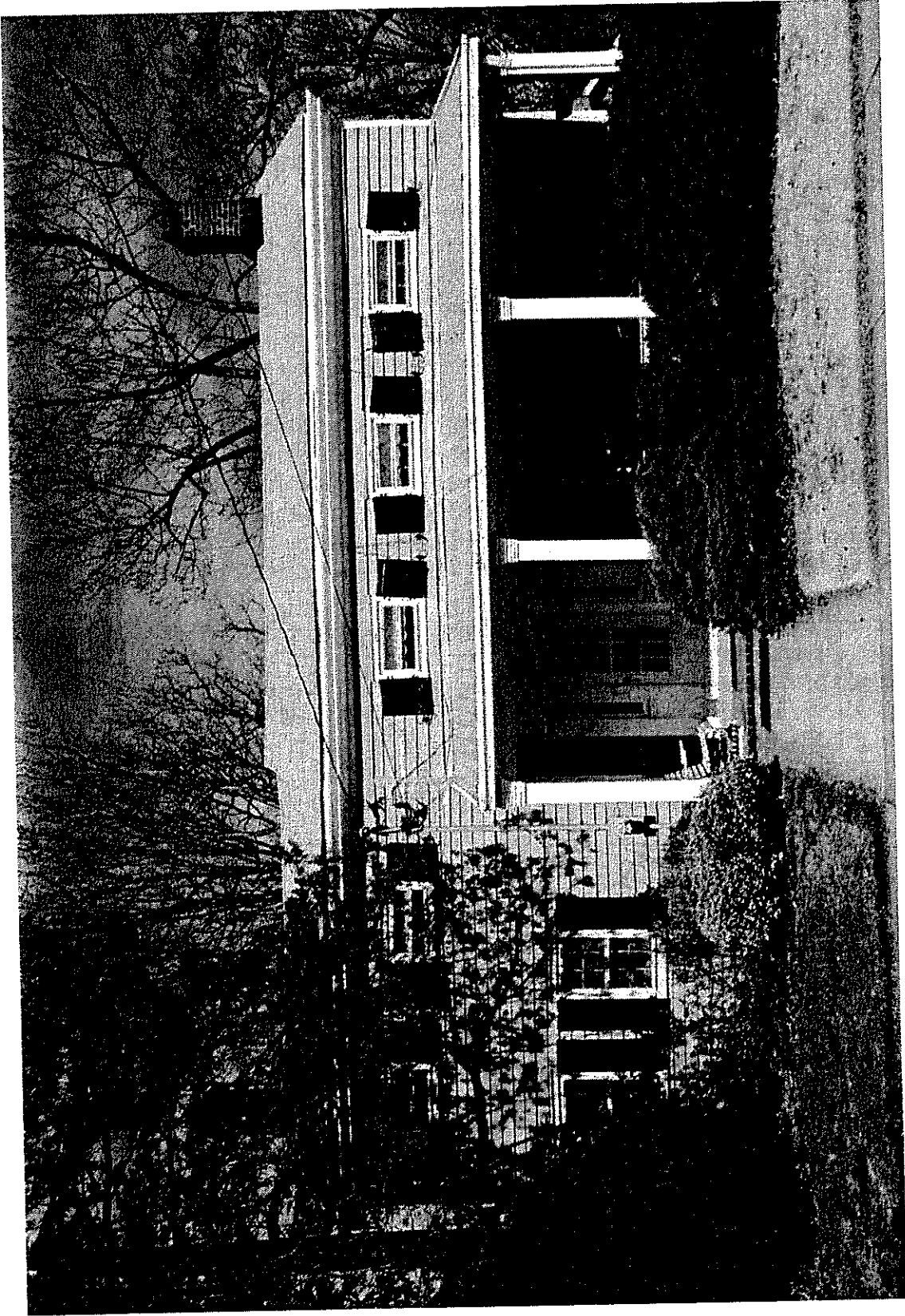
The Commissions further finds that, among its important qualities the Rutan-Journey House, built ca. 1848, is a rare survivor of early Tottenville, an important 19th-century town on Staten Island's South Shore; that this vernacular clapboard cottage merges older local building traditions with newer Greek Revival modes and that its doorway and porch are excellent examples of the Greek Revival style; that the front porch features four square pillars and simple, but sophisticated, railings, in original condition; that sharing architectural forms with other early Tottenville houses, it is one of the best-preserved houses representing the early building traditions of Staten Island's South Shore; that the Rutan-Journey House is one of the earliest documented houses of newly created Tottenville, and that it is the first on Amboy Road; that through its first two owners the house has close ties to the shipbuilding industry, which flourished in Tottenville from its beginnings in the 1840s through the early 20th century and that shipbuilding and ship repair were important partners of the oyster industry that created the town.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 24 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Rutan-Journey House, 7647 Amboy Road, Borough of Staten Island and designates Borough of Staten Island Tax Map Block 8050, Lot 13 as its Landmark Site.

Robert B. Tierney, Chair

Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice-Chair

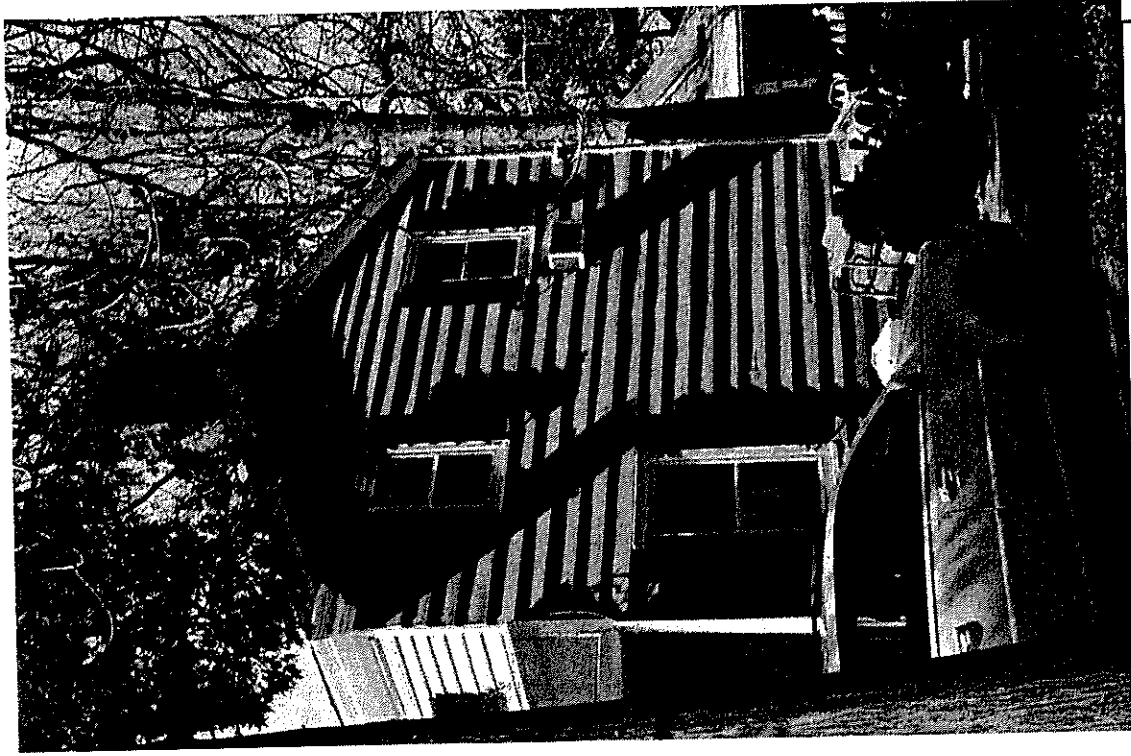
Frederick Bland, Stephen Byrns, Diana Chapin, Christopher Moore, Commissioners



Rutan-Journey House
7647 Amboy Road
Tottenville, Staten Island
Photo: Christopher Brazeel, 2009



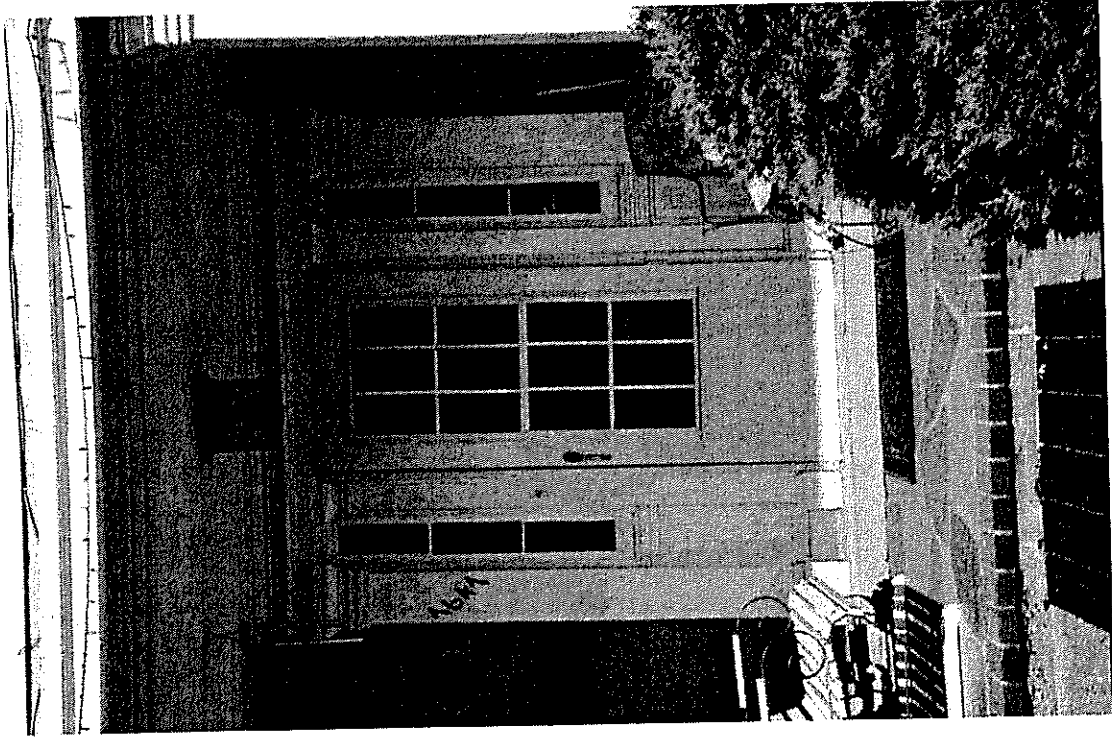
Rutan- Journey House
Staten Island
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2009



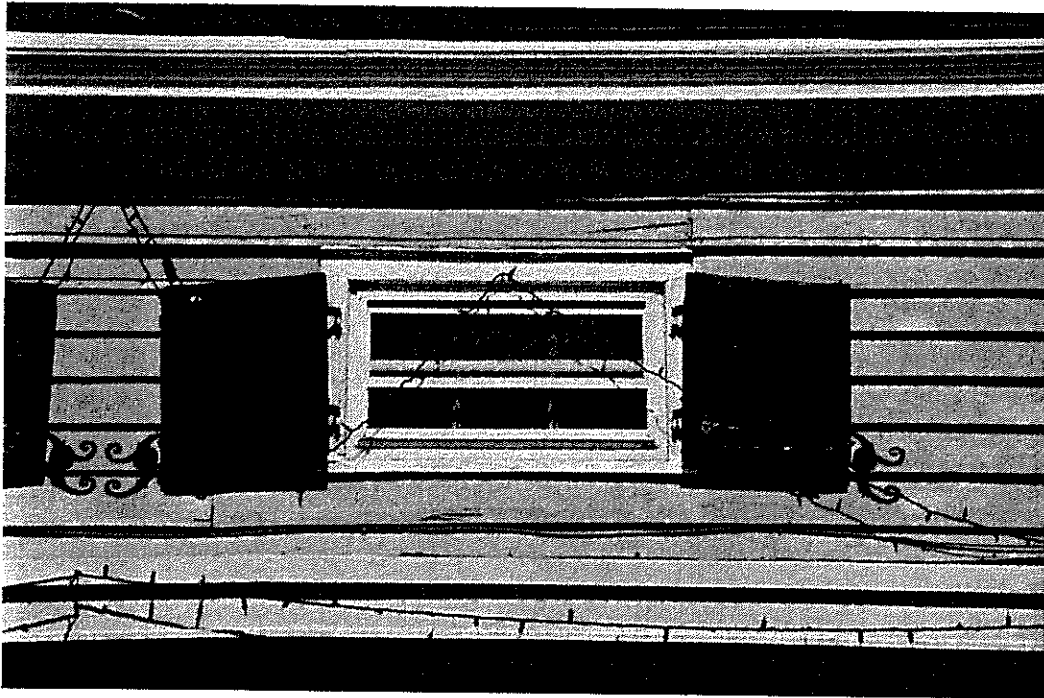
East façade detail

Rutan-Journey House

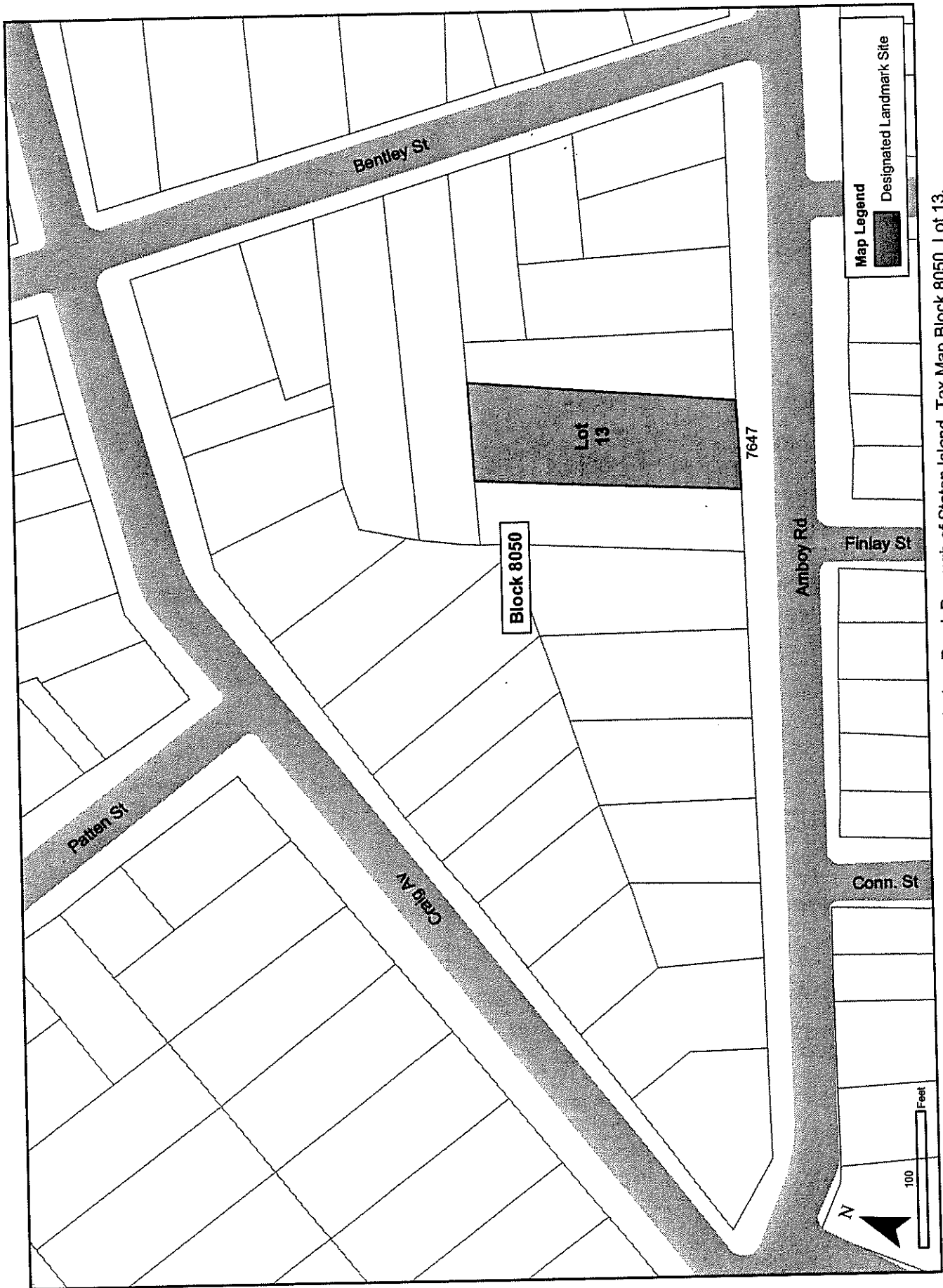
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2009



Front doorway, detail



Rutan- Journey House
Façade details
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2009



RUTAN JOURNEY HOUSE (LP-2221), 7647 Amboy Road. Borough of Staten Island, Tax Map Block 8050, Lot 13.

Designated: March 24, 2009

Graphic Source: New York City Department of City Planning, MapPLUTO, Edition 06C, December 2006; Author: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, J.M., March 25, 2009.

LAND USE DIVISION

2009 APR -3 P 4: 34

NYC COUNCIL

2009 APR -1 P 2: 25

Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 24, 2009, Designation List 411

LP-2311

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN MUSEUM (now LIBRARY) BUILDING, *FOUNTAIN OF LIFE*, and TULIP TREE ALLEE, Watson Drive and Garden Way, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, the Bronx; Museum Building designed 1896, built 1898-1901, Robert W. Gibson, architect; Fountain 1901-05, Carl (Charles) E. Tefft, sculptor, Gibson, architect; Allee planted 1903-11.

Landmark Site: Borough of the Bronx Tax Map 3272, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the property bounded by a line that corresponds to the outermost edges of the rear (eastern) portion of the original 1898-1901 Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the International Plant Science Center, Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing, and Jeannette Kittredge Watson Science and Education Building), the southernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the Annex) and a line extending southwesterly to Garden Way, the eastern curblin of Garden Way to a point on a line extending southwesterly from the northernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building, and northeasterly along said line and the northernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building, to the point of beginning.

On October 28, 2008, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the New York Botanical Garden Museum (now Library) Building, *Fountain of Life*, and Tulip Tree Allee and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 5). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Six people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of the New York Botanical Garden, Municipal Art Society of New York, Historic Districts Council, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, and New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Summary

The grand neo-Renaissance style New York Botanical Garden Museum Building, along with the *Fountain of Life* and Tulip Tree Allee, form a distinguished and monumental Beaux-Arts civic space within the largest and most renowned botanical garden in the country. Founded in 1891 and located within Bronx Park, the Botanical Garden showcases one of the world's great collections of plants and serves as an educational center for gardening and horticulture. The Museum (now Library) Building, designed in 1896 by architect Robert W. Gibson and constructed in 1898-1901, originally housed the Garden's



preserved botanical specimens and was the first American museum devoted solely to botany. The long four-story structure, clad in greyish-buff brick and buff terra cotta, features a symmetrical design and classically-inspired ornament characteristic of Beaux-Arts civic buildings at the turn of the century, with a rusticated and pedimented central pavilion with monumental columns and copper-clad saucer dome, flanked by sections and end pavilions with monumental pilasters. The energetic bronze sculptural group of the *Fountain of Life* (1903-05), designed by Carl (Charles) E. Tefft for Gibson's marble plinth and basins, depicts a cherub astride a dolphin atop a globe and two web-footed plunging horses being restrained by a female and a boy, surprising a merman and mermaid in the basin below. The fountain was restored in 2005. The Tulip Tree Allee, consisting of trees lining both sides of the drives leading to the fountain, was planted in 1903-11 at the direction of Nathaniel Lord Britton, first director of the Garden.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park¹

As early as 1888, the Torrey Botanical Club, the largest such American society, took on the mission of establishing a great botanical garden for New York City. The club was reportedly inspired by the description of Elizabeth Gertrude Knight Britton, and her husband, Nathaniel Lord Britton, both academics and botanists, of a recent visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England. A committee of the club, and the Brittons, in particular, promoted the idea, gaining the support of newspapers and influential New Yorkers. By the following year, club members had selected Bronx Park in the Bronx as a favorable location; the park land had been acquired by New York City in 1884 in anticipation of Consolidation. This was part of the vast former land holdings (beginning in 1792 until 1870) of the Lorillard family of tobacco fortune fame.² According to the censuses of 1800 and 1810, Peter Lorillard owned one slave. It is unknown whether or not slaves were used in their Bronx operations, but tobacco production in the South would have been based on slave labor.

After an act was drawn up by Addison Brown and Charles Daly, two federal judges with botanical/horticultural interests, the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) was established by the New York State Legislature in 1891 (with an amendment in 1894) for

the purpose of establishing and maintaining a botanical garden and museum and arboretum therein, for the collection and culture of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees, the advancement of botanical science and knowledge and the prosecution of original researches therein and in kindred subjects, for affording instruction in the same, for the prosecution and exhibition of ornamental and decorative horticulture and gardening, and for the entertainment, recreation and instruction of the people.³

NYBG was to be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of the president of Columbia College, and its professors of botany, geology, and chemistry; the president of the Torrey Botanical Club; the president of the New York City Board of Education; the mayor; and the president of the Board of Commissioners of the Dept. of Public Parks; along with nine elected members. The legislation stipulated that when sufficient funds (not less than \$250,000) were raised within five years of its passage, the Board was authorized to appropriate a portion of Bronx Park, not to exceed 250 acres, as well as to construct "a suitable fireproof building for such botanical museum and herbarium, with lecture rooms and laboratories for instruction"⁴ and other necessary structures. The City was then to issue bonds for \$500,000.

In June 1895, it was announced that the \$250,000 goal had been met, with major contributions from such titans as Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, J.D. Rockefeller, and Cornelius Vanderbilt II (president of the Board). At that time it was noted that "the scientific Directors have appointed a committee to confer with the experts of the Park Board in regard to the location to be chosen for the garden in Bronx Park."⁵ The Board of Directors thus referred the question of site selection to Calvert Vaux, one of the city's most eminent landscape architects since his first collaboration with Frederick Law Olmsted in Central Park (1858), and Samuel Bowne Parsons, Jr., Superintendent of Parks and Vaux's partner. It was reported in the *New York Times* that "after full examination both agreed in recommending that the northern end of Bronx Park be selected, and after some delay the Park Board appropriated it accordingly."⁶ By August 1895, plans were made for an accurate topographical survey of the tract. Due to the location of the Bronx River on the site, with its

adjacent marshy ground, drainage on the property was a significant early consideration. The Board hoped to "retain as much as possible the natural scenery of the place, which in beauty far exceeds that of any existing botanic garden,"⁷ and approved Vaux's preliminary plan in October. Vaux, however, drowned in November 1895, presumably a suicide.

After the topographical survey was completed by March 1896, the *New York Times* reported that

the plans of the garden have been formulated by Cornelius Vanderbilt, President of the garden; President Seth Low of Columbia College, William E. Dodge, Judge Addison Brown, and Prof. N.L. Britton, and preparations to carry them into effect have been completed. ... A building with three stories and a basement and having a total floor space of 90,000 square feet, is to be erected near the entrance to the garden for use as a museum. It will also contain rooms for a library, an economic museum, herbaria, laboratories, and also apartments where students may study special subjects.⁸

This was intended as the first American museum devoted solely to botany.

In May 1896, Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859-1934), professor of botany at Columbia and the secretary of the Board, was named Director in Chief of NYBG (in which position he served until 1929). Britton had become an instructor of botany at Columbia in 1886, an adjunct professor in 1890, and a professor in 1891, and was known for his rearrangement and reclassification of Columbia's herbarium and botanical library. The actual master plan for the Garden was drawn up by a commission consisting of John R. Brinley, landscape engineer; Samuel Henshaw, landscape gardener; Lucien Underwood, a professor on the Board of Scientific Directors; architect Robert W. Gibson; and Lincoln Pierson, of the firm of Lord & Burnham, preeminent conservatory builders; along with Britton and Parsons. Since the Garden's location as part of Bronx Park was on city-owned land, the Dept. of Public Parks had jurisdiction over the maintenance of buildings and grounds, as well as construction of roads and pathways. Columbia College was closely associated with NYBG, with arrangements made for the college's herbarium and botanical library to be placed in the Museum Building, and for NYBG facilities to be used by Columbia faculty and students. NYBG became one of the largest such gardens in the world.

Botanical Museum⁹

An elevated site for the Botanical Museum, about 1,000 feet east of the Bedford Park Railroad Station, was chosen by the Board in March 1896 due to its proximity to the station and its "very commanding position."¹⁰ An architectural competition was announced for the museum building, and among those who submitted designs were some of the city's most eminent architects: Ernest Flagg, N[apoleon]. Le Brun & Sons, Clinton & Russell, William Appleton Potter, and Parish & Schroeder. Robert W. Gibson was selected, and he filed plans in November 1896 for a structure expected to cost \$250,000. Construction on the museum was delayed due to appropriations being withheld by the City after a public debate developed over the location and design of the building (and the planned Conservatory), as well as general plans for NYBG, including its mission as a great scientific institution versus the park as an unspoiled landscape.¹¹ In September 1897, the Board of Estimate & Apportionment finally appropriated construction funds. Bids were received from twelve contractors in October; the lowest, for \$354,000, was accepted from the John H. Parker Co. The City's Corporation Council, however, deemed the bidding process invalid, and seven new bids were

received; John H. Parker Co. was again selected in November, for \$347,000 (also to include construction of a powerhouse and stable).

On December 31, 1897, the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Botanical Museum took place. After foundation work, the first bricks of the walls were laid in May 1898. *American Gardening* reported in September that

the Museum building... is rapidly taking shape now after a series of vexatious delays, chafing to the energetic spirit of the ever active director in chief, Dr. N.L. Britton. Huge masses of iron, stacks of brick, terra cotta pieces, and shaped stone lying about in a bewildering profusion are not picturesque in detail; they await their proper combination to yield New York and America a botanical museum that shall be worthy of both.... Beautifully designed, tastefully set, nobly planned, and easy of access, it will be a great addition to the educational buildings of the City.¹²

The *Times* also then reported that three-quarters of the steel framing had been completed, along with exterior walls to the second story; and that “the outside of the building is of brick and terra cotta, giving a soft, warm gray effect, which has been chosen as the best to blend with the landscape and not stand out too vividly in either Winter or Summer.”¹³

In November 1898, another \$200,000 in city bonds was authorized towards museum construction. A supplementary contract of \$12,875 was awarded in July 1899 to the John H. Parker Co. for building the “Front Central Portico,” which was completed in October 1899. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* mentioned in March 1900 that the museum building “has just been completed, [and] is said to be the largest, most elegant, best illuminated and for its purposes the best adapted of any similar edifice in the world.”¹⁴ The John H. Parker Co. contract was officially terminated in April, at a reported cost of \$348,000, close to the original bid.¹⁵ NYBG indicated that “plans prepared by Mr. Gibson for some further ornamentation of the end pavilions of the Museum have been accepted by the Board of Managers... but he has concluded that it will be advantageous to defer this work for the present.”¹⁶ In April 1901, a contract for a planned fountain in front of the museum and approaches to it [see below] was entered into with the Wilson & Baillie Manufacturing Co., a Brooklyn firm; this contract also referred to “cornice and roof ornaments on Botanical Museum.”¹⁷ Gibson’s “additional ornamental terra cotta work for the pavilions” was delivered, but installation was delayed during the winter of 1901. New ornamentation included acroteria and pediments.

The grand neo-Renaissance style Botanical Museum Building, with a front facade over 300 feet in width and the central pavilion surmounted by a copper-clad saucer dome, was constructed with steel framing and concrete floors, and clad in light greyish-buff brick, with extensive buff terra cotta ornament. The terra cotta was manufactured by the New York Architectural Terra Cotta Co.,¹⁸ which had been established in 1886 by Orlando B. Potter (with Asahel Clarke Geer) after his experience in the construction of his Potter Building (1883-86, Norris G. Starkweather), 35-38 Park Row,¹⁹ which used extensive architectural terra cotta. The only major architectural terra cotta firm in New York City, it became one of the largest such American manufacturers, producing ornament for such notable structures as Carnegie Hall (1889-91, William B. Tuthill); Montauk Club (1889-91, Francis H. Kimball); West End Collegiate Church and School (1892-93, Robert W. Gibson); Ansonia Hotel (1899-1904, Paul E.M. Duboy); and Plaza Hotel (1905-07, Henry Hardenbergh).²⁰ The company, with its factory located in Long Island City, lasted until bankruptcy in 1932. Gibson’s design for the Museum received much notice, being shown at the 1898 exhibition of the Architectural League of New York, and featured a number of times in the contemporary

architectural press: *The Brickbuilder* (August 1898), *Architecture & Building* (October 1898), *American Architect & Building News* (April 1900), and *The Brickbuilder* (June 1900).

Within the Botanical Museum Building originally were: a lecture hall in the ground-story level; a museum of economic botany (with plants used in the arts, industry, and sciences) on the first story; a general museum, with exhibits on the families of plants on the second story; a library, with the reading room under the dome, and a stack room to the rear on the third-story center wing; plant embryology laboratories in the northern third-story wing; and taxonomy laboratories and herbaria, including Columbia University's herbarium, in the southern third-story wing. When it was completed, this was considered the largest botanical museum in the world, with the largest botanical library in the United States. It also served as NYBG's administration building.

Architect: Robert W. Gibson ²¹

Robert Williams Gibson (1854-1927), born in Essex, England, graduated in 1879 from the Royal Academy of Arts, London (winning the Soane Medallion) and spent a year traveling on scholarship in Italy, France and Spain. After immigrating to the United States in 1881, Gibson established an architectural practice in Albany, N.Y., where he soon entered the competition for the design of the Cathedral of All Saints (Episcopal). His Gothic Revival style design was selected in 1883 over the only other submission, that of the preeminent Romanesque Revival master, Henry Hobson Richardson; the building was constructed in 1884-88 and 1902-04. Gibson also designed the Romanesque Revival style National Commercial Bank (1887), Albany. In 1888, Gibson moved to New York City, where he established a successful practice, specializing in ecclesiastical and commercial buildings. Two early commissions that were Romanesque-inspired were the U.S. Trust Co. Building (1888-89, demolished), 45 Wall Street, and the New York Ear & Eye Infirmary (1888-94), Second Avenue and 13th Street.

Gibson was responsible for the design of many churches, especially Episcopal, in New York State and region, mostly in the Gothic Revival style, including: Christ Mission (1886), Gloversville, N.Y.; Christ Church (1888-89), Herkimer, N.Y.; the 1888-89 interior of St. Paul's Cathedral (1860-61, Richard Upjohn), Buffalo, N.Y.; St. Stephen's Church (1888-89), Olean, N.Y.; Christ Church (1886-94), Rochester, N.Y.; St. Michael's Church (1890-91), Amsterdam Avenue and West 99th Street; Trinity Church (1891), Ossining, N.Y.; St. John's Church (1892), Northampton, Mass.; Grace Church (1892), Plainfield, N.J.; Christ Church (1893), Corning, N.Y.; and St. Luke's Church (1897-98), Mechanicsville, N.Y. West End Collegiate Church and School (1892-93), West End Avenue and West 77th Street, a designated New York City Landmark, is a distinctive essay in the Dutch Renaissance Revival style, while the Church Missions House (1892-94, with Edward J.N. Stent), 281 Park Avenue South, a designated New York City Landmark, was inspired by a medieval Flemish guildhall. The Randall Memorial Chapel and Music Hall (1890-92; chapel demolished), Sailors' Snug Harbor, Staten Island, signaled a turn in the latter part of Gibson's career to classically-inspired styles.

Among his notable commercial and institutional projects are the Fifth Avenue Bank (1890, demolished), 530 Fifth Avenue; Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club (1891-93), Oyster Bay, N.Y.; Greenwich Savings Bank (1892, demolished), 246 Sixth Avenue; Bank of Buffalo (1895), Buffalo, N.Y.; New York Coffee Exchange (1895, demolished), 110 Pearl Street; New York Clearing House Exchange Building (1896, demolished), 77 Cedar Street; New York Botanical Garden Museum Building (1896-1901), Bronx; Women's (later Martha Washington) Hotel (1901-03), 29 East 29th Street; and Merchants and Mechanics Bank (1902), Scranton, Pa. The Morton F. and Nellie Plant

House (1903-05), 651 Fifth Avenue, Cartier's since 1917, is a designated New York City Landmark.

Gibson built a summer home in Oyster Bay in 1899 that he continued to enlarge in subsequent years. He was a director of the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects and a president of the New York Architectural League. By 1909, his career was in decline and personal problems, including the death of his son and his wife's increasing breakdowns, led him to rent his home in Oyster Bay; he moved to Aveley Farm in Woodbury, N.Y., where he died in 1927.

Later History of the Botanical Museum Building ²²

Due to the growth of both the library and the herbarium, an addition to the Botanical Museum Building was contemplated as early as 1926. Nothing was accomplished except for internal remodeling and expansion until a library wing was planned in 1958 by architects Eggers & Higgins. The original rear central wing of the Museum Building was demolished, and the Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing was built in 1964-65, but not occupied until 1966. In 1960-61, the balustrades, cheek walls, and steps in front of the museum were replaced with new granite steps and brick walls with bluestone and concrete coping. The Jeannette Kittredge Watson Science and Education Building, for education and environmental units, administrative offices, and experimental greenhouse, was constructed behind the Museum Building's southern wing in 1969-72 (William and Geoffrey Platt, architect). An Annex to house specimens from the herbarium collection was built in 1993-94 (Coe Lee Robinson Roesch, Inc., architect) to the south of the Museum Building. The International Plant Science Center was constructed behind the Museum Building's northern wing in 1998 (Polshek Partnership, architect), containing the William and Linda Steere Herbarium, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, and Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery and Lecture Hall. All of these additions to the original Museum Building are excluded from this designation.

Description: Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the International Plant Science Center, Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing, Jeannette Kittredge Watson Science and Education Building, and Annex)

Front Facade: The long four-story neo-Renaissance style structure, clad in greyish-buff brick and buff terra cotta (manufactured by the New York Architectural Terra Cotta Co.), is articulated horizontally with a rusticated and pedimented central pavilion with four monumental Corinthian columns and copper-clad saucer dome, flanked by intermediate sections and end pavilions with monumental Corinthian pilasters. The rusticated ground story serves as the base of the building, while the entrance on the first story is approached by wide stairs, and the third story is a mansard roof (clad in standing-seam metal, with segmental dormers) on the intermediate sections, between the full-story pedimented pavilions (with pilasters and molded copper cornices). Fenestration is rectangular, except on the second story, which is round-arched with voussoirs and keystones. Balustrades are located at the base of the second-story windows. In 1959-61, "swivel type" windows were replaced with double-hung sash. The cornice above the second story is modillioned on the central pavilion and denticulated on the rest of the building, and ornamented with swags on the pavilions. A pierced parapet originally extended atop the entire second-story cornice; today only that on the central pavilion survives. Anthemion ornament acroteria, placed in 1901 at the corners of the roof of each pavilion, were removed by 1950. Flagpoles originally located atop each of the three pavilions have been removed. **Central Pavilion:** There are three entrances, each with double wood-and-glass doors and double transoms. The central main entrance has a surround with brick Doric columns that support an entablature which is surmounted by a seal of New York City,

flanked by scrolls and in turn surmounted by a segmental pediment. The flanking entrances are surmounted by smaller segmentally-pedimented seals of the United States and New York State. A cartouche with the seal of NYBG, flanked by scrolls and edged with a cornucopia, is located in the center of the third story. **Front Steps/Approach:** In 1960-61, the original curved balustrade along the drive in front of the Museum Building and the front steps were replaced with new brick walls (now painted) with concrete coping and curved ends, and new granite steps with brick cheek walls with bluestone coping. A metal lamppost with three globes has been placed on either side of the steps atop the cheek walls, and the steps have metal railings. A handicap-accessible lift has been placed to the north of the northern cheek wall. There are steps to the ground story flanked by a brick cheek wall, to the south of the main steps. **End Pavilions:** Each pavilion has a ground-story pedimented and arched entrance with double wood-and-glass doors and arched transoms. The northern pavilion has a service entrance to the north, with double wood doors, flanking brick cheek walls, and bluestone paving. The southern pavilion has flanking brick cheek walls and bluestone paving in front of the entrance. **Intermediate Sections:** An entrance is located on the ground story to the north of the Central Pavilion, having double wood-and-glass doors and double transoms, and is flanked by one brick and bluestone cheek wall and approached by bluestone steps. A ground-story entrance to the south of the Central Pavilion is partially filled in with brick, and is flanked by one brick and bluestone cheek wall and approached by bluestone steps.

Rear (East) Facade: Three portions of the original Museum Building are visible on the rear facade: a section south of the Jeannette Kittredge Watson Science and Education Building; the central dome, visible above the Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing; and a northern section between the Pratt Library Wing and the International Plant Science Center. The visible southern four-bay portion has a three-bay southern pavilion and is articulated with rustication. The watertable has been parged. The southernmost windows on each story have been filled with brick, as have the northernmost two bays of the ground story. The third story is a mansard roof, having a molded and denticulated cornice and three segmental dormers on the pavilion (the southernmost window is filled in) and two rectangular dormers to the north. The visible four-bay northern section is articulated with rustication and has an angled polygonal entrance with wood-and-glass doors and transom, flanked by small rectangular openings with louvers. To the south of this entrance is a light well with a window, and to the north a basement entrance with a metal door. The third story is a mansard roof, having a molded and denticulated cornice and four rectangular dormers.

South Facade: The five-bay south facade is articulated with a rusticated ground story and monumental Corinthian pilasters on the first and second stories. The ground story had a pedimented and arched entrance, which is now connected to the Annex, with the upper portion of the arch filled in. The eastern portion of the watertable has been parged. The windows on each story of the easternmost bay have been filled with brick. The westernmost three bays of the third story are full-height, while the rest of the story is a mansard roof, with an easternmost segmental dormer.

North Facade: The only remaining visible portion of the north facade of the original five-bay Museum Building is the three westernmost bays, articulated with a rusticated ground story and monumental Corinthian pilasters on the first and second stories, and a small adjacent portion also having a pilaster on the first and second stories, as well as a small portion of the mansard roof. The ground story bays were altered (east to west) with: a louver and a painted window; metal doors; and louvers.

Botanical Garden Fountain: *Fountain of Life*²³

The original plan of NYBG included a fountain in front of the Botanical Museum, and after the building's substantial completion in 1900, "the marble basins, whose position had been established by the general plan in 1897, were constructed at the time that the path approaches and marble seats, garden fountain and drinking fountain were built on the driveway [at the western end of the museum approach drives], leaving only the character of the bronze fountain itself to be determined, and its construction secured."²⁴ The Dept. of Public Parks' *Annual Report* of 1900 noted that "specifications have been prepared for the improvement of grounds adjacent to the Botanical Museum Building... estimated to cost \$40,000,"²⁵ while the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* in March 1900 indicated that "considerable work remains to be done on the surroundings, such as grading and constructing a driveway and path approaches to the front central portico, the building of a fountain designed to occupy the space within the outer curved retaining wall of the front approach, and of a parapet retaining wall around the terrace which surrounds the building."²⁶ At that time, NYBG announced that "the Board of Managers have also authorized a sculptors' competition for designs for the fountain planned for construction in front of the Museum Building, and arrangements for such competition have been made by a committee of the Managers and the architect."²⁷ Gibson envisioned the fountain as the focus of the vista looking toward the Museum, and as having upper and lower water basins, the flowing "water element" giving "distinctive character both as a landscape feature and as a botanical exhibit."²⁸ Atop the Gibson-designed rusticated marble plinth and basins was to be a bronze sculptural fountain group, to be designed through this competition.

None of the submitted fountain designs were considered acceptable, and two additional designs were procured, but also rejected. In April 1901, a contract for \$33,575 was awarded by the Dept. of Public Parks to the Wilson & Baillie Manufacturing Co., for "grading grounds, constructing, regulating, grading and paving walks and roads, furnishing and laying iron water pipes, constructing basin for statuary fountain, erecting garden fountain and drinking fountain, constructing stone seats, etc., in front of the Museum building."²⁹ This contract was completed at the end of 1902. During that year, NYBG requested assistance in finding a sculptor from the National Sculpture Society, which appointed a committee composed of leading sculptors Karl Bitter and Daniel Chester French, and architect Charles C. Haight. A new open competition for the NYBG fountain was held in January-March 1903, with the jury composed of sculptors French, John Quincy Adams Ward, Charles Grafly, and Herbert Adams, and architect George B. Post. Fifteen sculptors submitted designs, and in April that of Carl (Charles) E. Tefft was selected, subject to his submitting a model for the committee's approval.

In November 1903, it was reported that "the model is an admirable piece of work, giving abundant proof of the sculptor's ability to carry out intelligently and artistically the design recommended to the Board."³⁰ Tefft's fountain design was also approved by the NYBG Board and John E. Eustis, Commissioner of Parks. Tefft completed the full plaster model in September 1904, and a \$7,500 contract for casting and setting the bronze was granted in December to the Roman Bronze Works in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The Art Commission approved the design in January 1905. Cast in the Cire-Perdue process, the fountain was completed in May, purchased for \$20,000, and installed by the City in June 1905, becoming fully operational in July. The Art Commission described the theme of the energetic fountain sculpture:

This is a bronze group, heroic size, of the head and shoulders of two rearing horses with webbed forefeet. A nude female figure of hilarious mien is astride the one at the left, which she guides with her right hand, while she swings her left hand backward

in, merry gesture. A nude boy tries to control the horse at the right, and in his right hand holds a fish by the tail. Above the horses, a nude boy sits on the back of a dolphin on a large globe. Water flows from beneath the plinth into a large basin below, in the left side of which is a bronze merman looking up in a startled manner at the plunging animals and in the right side of the basin a bronze mermaid turns partly round to look at the group above her as she hurries to get out of their way.³¹

Tefft's creation of the horses' webbed feet was considered novel. Preeminent sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens praised the work, while writer Frank Owen Payne opined that Tefft

has created a most brilliant work. No other fountain of the city of New York is so admirably located. With the imposing facade of the great Botanic Museum behind it, and with its superb setting of fine shrubbery, this fountain is indeed a thing of rare beauty. ... The sculptor has called this the Fountain of Life, typifying, as it were, the great life principle of "Struggle for Existence" and "Survival of the Fittest." The marvellous [sic] vivacity and motion displayed in this unique group certainly give force to the idea.³²

Sculptor: Carl (Charles) E. Tefft³³

One of the leading American public sculptors of the early 20th century (though not well-known today outside of Maine), Charles (later Carl) Eugene Tefft (1874-1951) was born in Brewer, Maine; both his mother and grandmother were designers. He began to study sculpture as a teenager, and after high school, moved to New York City in 1893 to attend the New-York Institute for Artist-Artisans (founded 1888) on a scholarship. Tefft apprenticed with sculptor John Quincy Adams Ward, and in 1898 became a professor of sculptural modeling at the Institute. Around 1913 he established a studio and lived in Tompkinsville, Staten Island, using the name Carl professionally. During World War I, Tefft served in the 9th Coast Artillery. He was appointed director of sculpture at the New York Industrial Institute of Art around 1918, and later became director of sculpture for the Sesquicentennial International Exposition (1925), Philadelphia. After his wife's death in 1936, Tefft divided his time between New York, Washington, and Maine, where he died in Presque Isle.

Among Tefft's most notable public sculptures are: *Lake Superior*, Pan-American Exposition (1901), Buffalo, N.Y.; *Osceola*, Charleston (S.C.) Exposition (1901-02); *Iowa and Renaissance Art*, Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904), St. Louis, Mo.; *Revolutionary War Monument* (1908), Ft. Lee, N.J.; *Peace Monument ("Victory")* (1922), Belleville, N.J.; *Spanish-American War (Battleship Maine) Memorial* (1922), Bangor, Maine; *Luther H. Peirce Memorial ("The Last Drive")* (1925-26), Bangor; *Hannibal Hamlin* (1927), Bangor, depicting Lincoln's first Vice President (a 1933 copy was placed in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol); *William Henry Maxwell Memorial* (1928), American Museum of Natural History, commemorating New York City's Superintendent of Schools, 1898-1918; and *Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial* (1939), Bangor.

Later History: Fountain of Life

In 1960-61, the original balustrade that curved behind the fountain (on which lampposts were placed) was replaced by a brick wall (now painted) with concrete coping and curved ends. Two steel flagpoles, donated by Edward D. Adams (by 1920) were re-installed on the curved ends. Around this time, the western side of the circular drive around the fountain was reconfigured as a path (now paved with asphalt and flanked at each end by a lamppost). In 1968, the fountain's bronze figures

were cleaned by the Parks Dept. At that time, cracking was observed in the marble plinth and basin, and plans were made to reset the supporting bronze mermaid and merman figures "that were removed some years ago" (two adjacent crab claws were also missing).³⁴ The fountain was restored for a reported \$2 million in 2005 by the A. Ottavino Corp. and Building Conservation Associates. New mermaid, merman, and crab claw figures were sculpted in bronze by Glenn and Diane Hines according to historic photographs, including those of Tefft's original model. The fountain was named after philanthropist donor Lillian Goldman, and a new bronze book (by sculptor Stephen Doyle) was placed on the edge of the lower marble basin.

Tulip Tree Allee³⁵

The contract between the Dept. of Public Parks and the Wilson & Baillie Manufacturing Co., to grade the grounds, construct and pave walks and roads, etc., in front of the Museum Building [see above] was executed between April 1901 and the end of 1902. This contract also included, at the western end of the Museum drives, the installation of a seating area and drinking fountain (no longer extant), described by Gibson as:

[a] set of stone seats with a drinking fountain – a little architectural structure of Corinthian order about 16 feet high with a bronze cluster of water symbols. ... From this point looking toward the Museum the main avenue will give a delightful vista toward its principal entrance with the terrace and ramps leading up to the grand portico.³⁶

In 1903, Carolina poplars were planted along the approach to the museum.³⁷ By the beginning of 1904, the driveway was re-graded after completion of the main fountain's basins, as well as the seating area and drinking fountain (the latter in operation in June 1903), and the paths leading to the museum were completed. Tulip trees were planted between the poplars in 1905.³⁸ By 1911, the poplar trees were removed, leaving the tulip trees.³⁹ The seating area/drinking fountain at the west end of the allee was removed c. 1954-56 when a laboratory building was constructed nearby. Today, the allee is formed by 25 trees. The drives are currently paved with asphalt with concrete curbs, and are lined with benches. Asphalt and concrete sidewalks alongside the drive lead to the front steps of the Museum Building, and asphalt paths lead from the drive to the west of the northern and southern pavilions of the front facade.

Report prepared by
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NOTES

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- Architecture and Life of Calvert Vaux* (N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1998), 318-319, 356; Ogden Tanner and Adele Auchincloss, *The New York Botanical Garden: An Illustrated Chronicle of Plants and People* (N.Y.: Walker & Co., 1991); Gregory Long and Anne Skillion, eds., *The New York Botanical Garden* (N.Y.: Abrams, 2006).
2. The Lorillard Snuff Mill (c. 1840) is a designated New York City Landmark.
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 4. New York State, 524.
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 6. "No Better Site Found," *NYT*, Aug. 18, 1895, 2.
 7. "Botanic Garden Survey," *NYT*, Aug. 15, 1895, 9.
 8. "Plans for the Botanical Garden," *NYT*, Mar. 8, 1896, 16.
 9. Tanner and Auchincloss; "For the Study of Botany," *NYT*, Nov. 28, 1896, 8; "Buildings in the Bronx," *NYT*, June 22, 1897, 12; "Buildings in Bronx Park," *NYT*, July 20, 1897, 12; "Bronx Park and the Botanical Garden," *NYT*, Sept. 19, 1897, 18; "The Botanical Museum," *NYT*, Sept. 30, 1897, 12; "New York Botanical Garden," *American Gardening*, Jan. 8, 1898, 25; [Parish & Schroeder,] *Architecture & Building*, Feb. 12, 1898; "Front Elevation, Museum Building, New York Botanical Garden," *The Brickbuilder*, Aug. 1898, 171, pls. 61-62; "Museum Building, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York City," *Architecture & Building*, Oct. 1, 1898; "Sales of Bonds Advertised," *NYT*, Nov. 17, 1898, 12; "Bronx Park," NYC, Dept. of Public Parks (DPP), *Annual Report* (1898), 56-57; Architectural League of New York, *Catalogue of the Thirteenth Annual Exhibition* (1898), 129; "Bright Prospects in Bronx Borough," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Apr. 16, 1899, 26; St. Louis Architectural Club, *Catalogue Annual Exhibition* (1899), 94; "Central Pavilion: Botanical Museum, Bronx Park, N.Y.," *American Architecture & Building News*, Apr. 7, 1900, pl. 1267; "Botanical Museum, Bronx Park, New York.," *The Brickbuilder*, June 1900, 130; "New Collections for the Botanical Garden," *NYT*, Nov. 11, 1900, 3; Columbia Univ., *Catalogue* (1900-01), 79-80; "The Botanical Garden, New York," *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, Aug. 24, 1907, 151; N.L. Britton, "Botanical Garden is Widely Known," *NYT*, May 17, 1908, B4; "Bronx Park: The Botanical Garden," Fremont Rider, *Rider's New York City* (N.Y.: Henry Holt & Co., 1916), 378-383; Henry Hope Reed and Edmund V. Gillon, Jr., *Beaux-Arts Architecture in New York* (N.Y.: Dover Publics., 1988), 82.
 10. NYBG, *Bulletin* (1897), 31.
 11. See: "An unfortunate controversy..." *American Architect & Building News*, July 31, 1897, 38.
 12. "Editorial Chat," *American Gardening*, Sept. 24, 1898, 670.
 13. "An Eden in Bronx Park," *NYT*, Sept. 25, 1898, 4.
 14. "Harlem and the Bronx," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Mar. 27, 1900, 15.
 15. NYC, DPP, *Annual Report* (1900), 29.
 16. NYBG, *Bulletin* (1900), 298.
 17. NYC, DPP, *Annual Report* (1901), 78.
 18. *The Brickbuilder*, June 1900, 130.
 19. This building is a designated New York City Landmark.
 20. The Montauk Club is located within the Park Slope Historic District; the other buildings are designated New York City Landmarks.
 21. LPC, architects files and *Church Missions House Designation Report* (LP-1044) (N.Y.: City of New York, 1979) prepared by Ruth Selden-Sturgill; James Ward, *Architects in Practice, New York City 1900-1940*

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22. NYBG, *Bulletin* (1926, 1930), 186 and 172, and *Annual Report* (1949-74); "Botanical Library Set," *NYT*, May 28, 1959, 20; "New Library is Dedicated by the Botanical Garden," *NYT*, Dec. 17, 1965, 42; J.K. Watson obit., *NYT*, Feb. 12, 1966, 23; "New York Botanical Garden Dedicates New \$2.5-Million Research Building," *NYT*, Oct. 8, 1972, 75.
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 29. NYC, DPP, *Annual Report* (1901), 78.
 30. NYBG, *Journal* (Sept. 1905), 142.
 31. NYC, Art Commission, *Catalogue of the Works of Art Belonging to the City of New York* (1909), 224.
 32. Frank Owen Payne, "Some Noteworthy American Fountains," *The International Studio* (Jan. 1916), reprinted in NYBG, *Journal* (Feb. 1916), 26.
 33. "Carl E. Tefft," Smithsonian American Art Museum, Art Inventories Catalog, Smithsonian Institution Research Information System; "Training School for Artisans," *NYT*, Mar. 13, 1898, SM3; "Carl Tefft," *Builders of Our Nation: Men of 1913* (Chicago: 1914), 455; "Directs Sculpture at Fair," *NYT*, Dec. 27, 1925, 19; "Museum Dedicates School of Service," *NYT*, Jan. 18, 1928, 52; Tefft obit., *NYT*, Sept. 21, 1951, 23; Richard R. Shaw, *Brewer* (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.: Arcadia Publ., 2000), 69; "Made in Maine: Charles Eugene Tefft, Sculptor," Tefft Family Assn., *Newsletter* (Apr. 2001), 3 and 6; "Charles Eugene Tefft," www.bairnet.org website; Federal Writers' Project, *Maine: A Guide "Down East"* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1937), 136-137.
 34. NYBG, *Annual Report* (1968-69), 47.
 35. NYBG, *Bulletin* (1904-21).
 36. NYBG, *Journal* (July 1901), 107 and pl. 8.
 37. NYBG, *Bulletin* (1903), 474. A mature tulip tree already existed on the site, to the north of the Fountain of Life.
 38. There has been NYBG speculation that these trees were propagated from seeds taken from the existing "mother tree."
 39. In 1911, one large tulip tree was planted to fill in a gap in the alley.

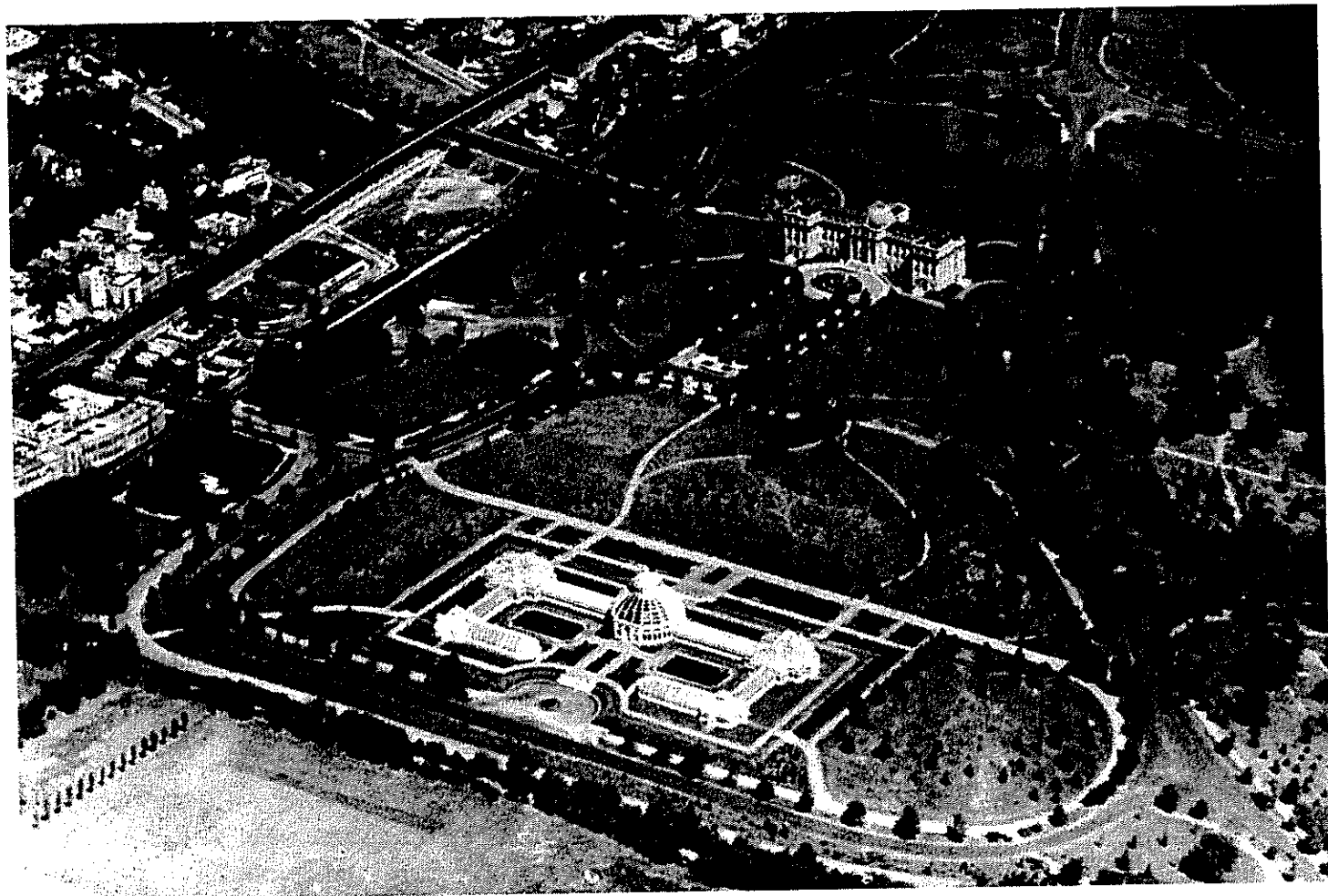
FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this complex, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the New York Botanical Garden Museum (now Library) Building, *Fountain of Life*, and Tulip Tree Allee have a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among their important qualities, the grand neo-Renaissance style New York Botanical Garden (now Library) Museum Building, along with the *Fountain of Life* and Tulip Tree Allee, form a distinguished and monumental Beaux-Arts civic space within the largest and most renowned botanical garden in the country; that founded in 1891 and located within Bronx Park, the Botanical Garden showcases one of the world's great collections of plants and serves as an educational center for gardening and horticulture; that the Museum Building, designed in 1896 by architect Robert W. Gibson and constructed in 1898-1901, originally housed the Garden's preserved botanical specimens and was the first American museum devoted solely to botany; that the long four-story structure, clad in greyish-buff brick and buff terra cotta, features a symmetrical design and classically-inspired ornament characteristic of Beaux-Arts civic buildings at the turn of the century, with a rusticated and pedimented central pavilion with monumental columns and copper-clad saucer dome, flanked by sections and end pavilions with monumental pilasters; that the energetic bronze sculptural group of the *Fountain of Life* (1903-05), designed by Carl (Charles) E. Tefft for Gibson's marble plinth and basins (and restored in 2005), depicts a cherub astride a dolphin atop a globe and two web-footed plunging horses being restrained by a female and a boy, surprising a merman and mermaid in the basin below; and that the Tulip Tree Allee, consisting of trees lining both sides of the drives leading to the fountain, was planted in 1903-11 at the direction of Nathaniel Lord Britton, first director of the Garden.

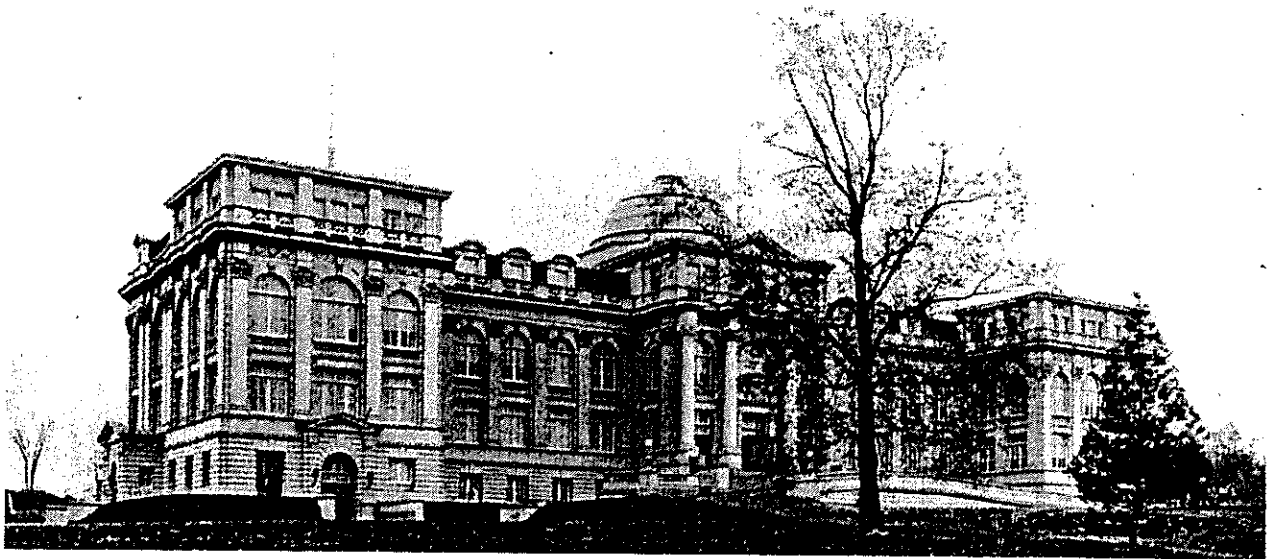
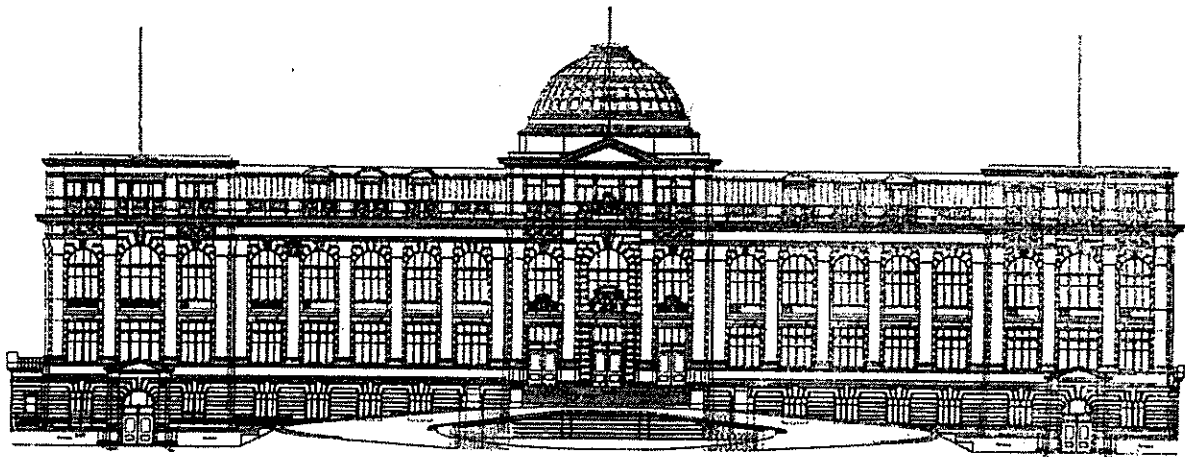
Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the New York Botanical Garden Museum (now Library) Building, *Fountain of Life*, and Tulip Tree Allee, Watson Drive and Garden Way, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, Borough of the Bronx, and designates Bronx Tax Map 3272, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the property bounded by a line that corresponds to the outermost edges of the rear (eastern) portion of the original 1898-1901 Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the International Plant Science Center, Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing, and Jeannette Kittredge Watson Science and Education Building), the southernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the Annex) and a line extending southwesterly to Garden Way, the eastern curblin of Garden Way to a point on a line extending southwesterly from the northernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building, and northeasterly along said line and the northernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building, to the point of beginning, as its Landmark Site.

Robert B. Tierney, Chair; Pablo E. Vengochea, Vice Chair
Fred Bland, Stephen F. Byrns, Diana Chapin, Christopher Moore, Commissioners



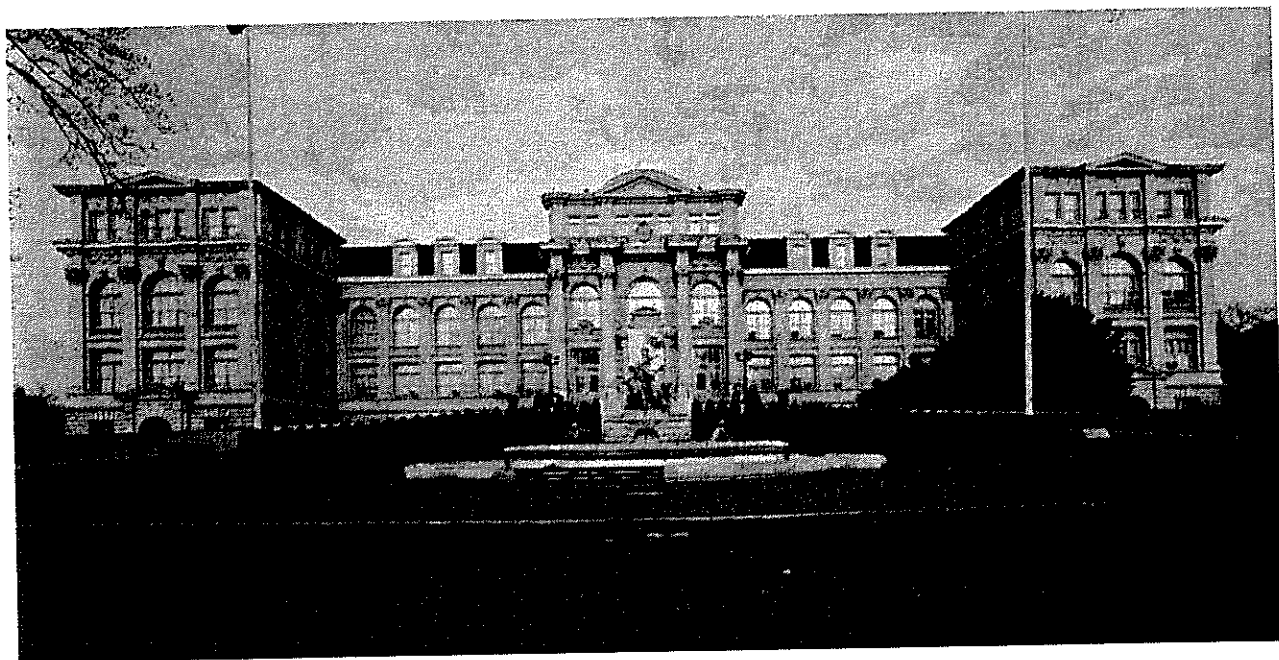
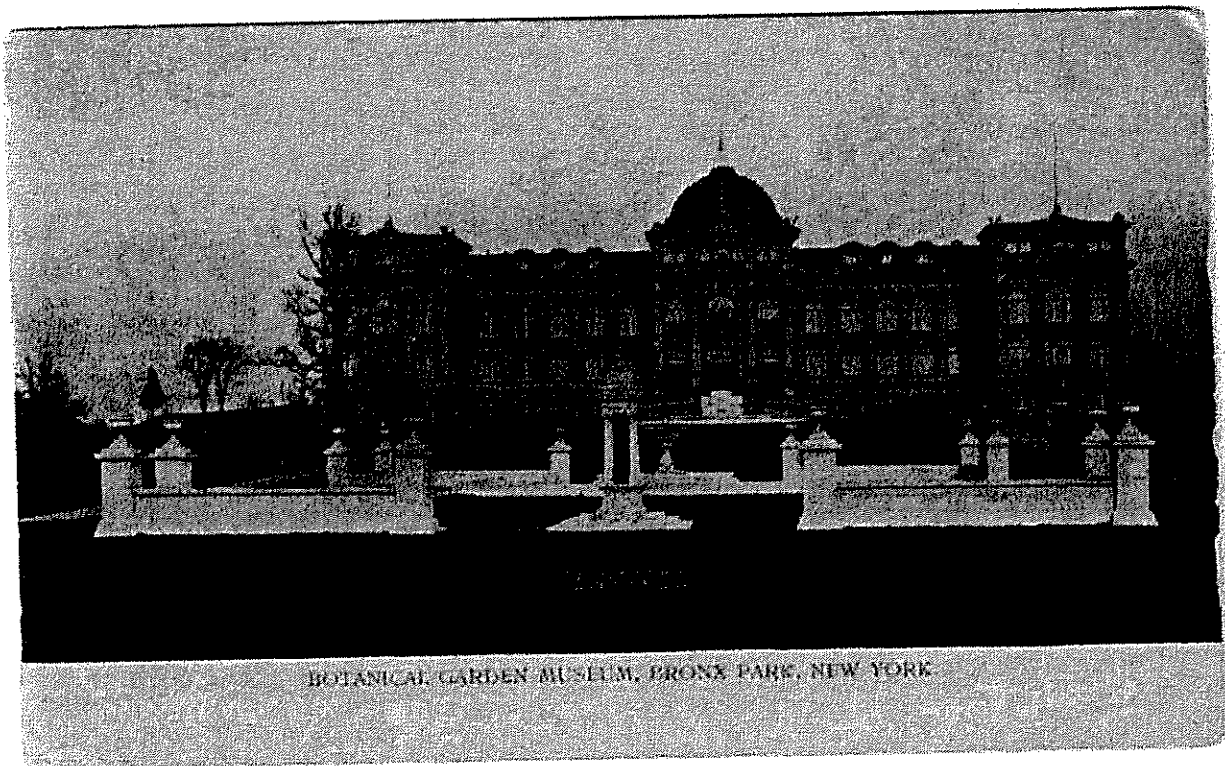
New York Botanical Garden (pre-1954)

Photo: Collection of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission



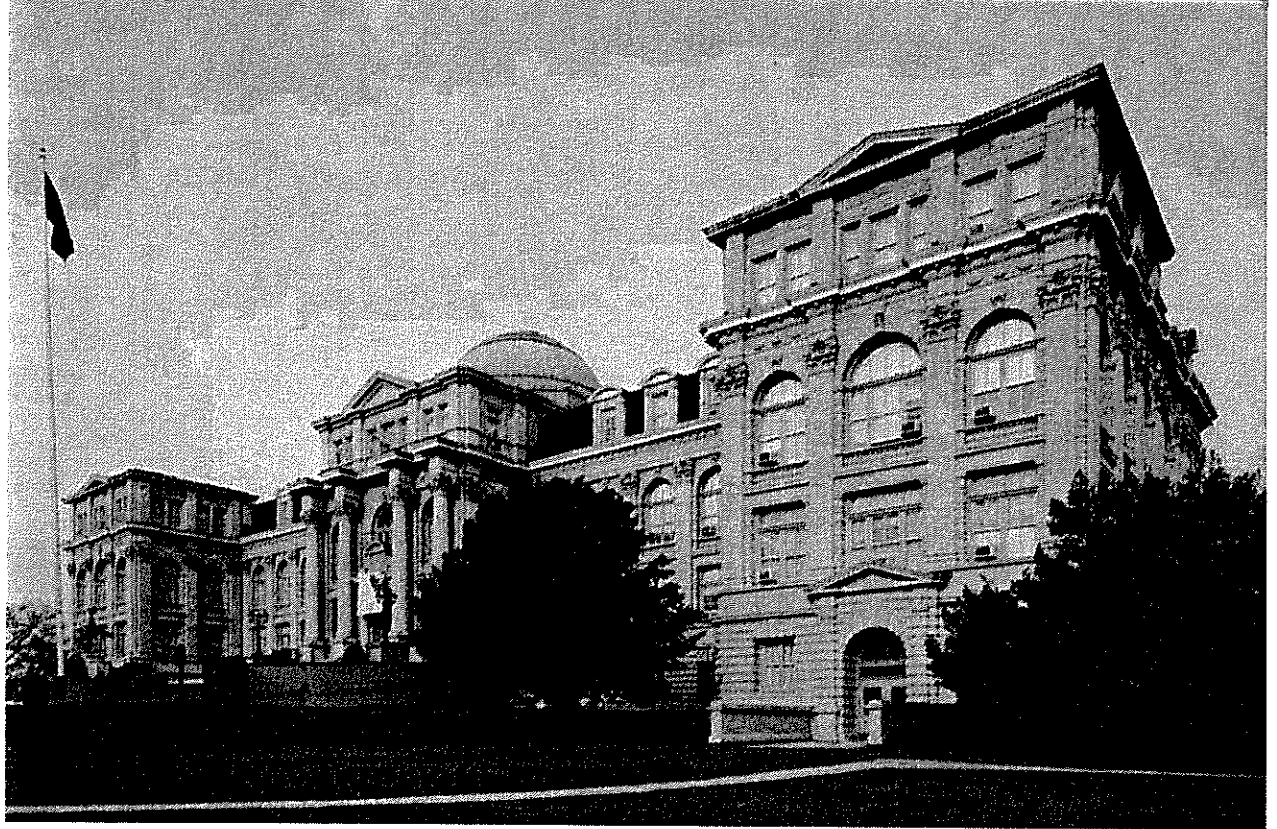
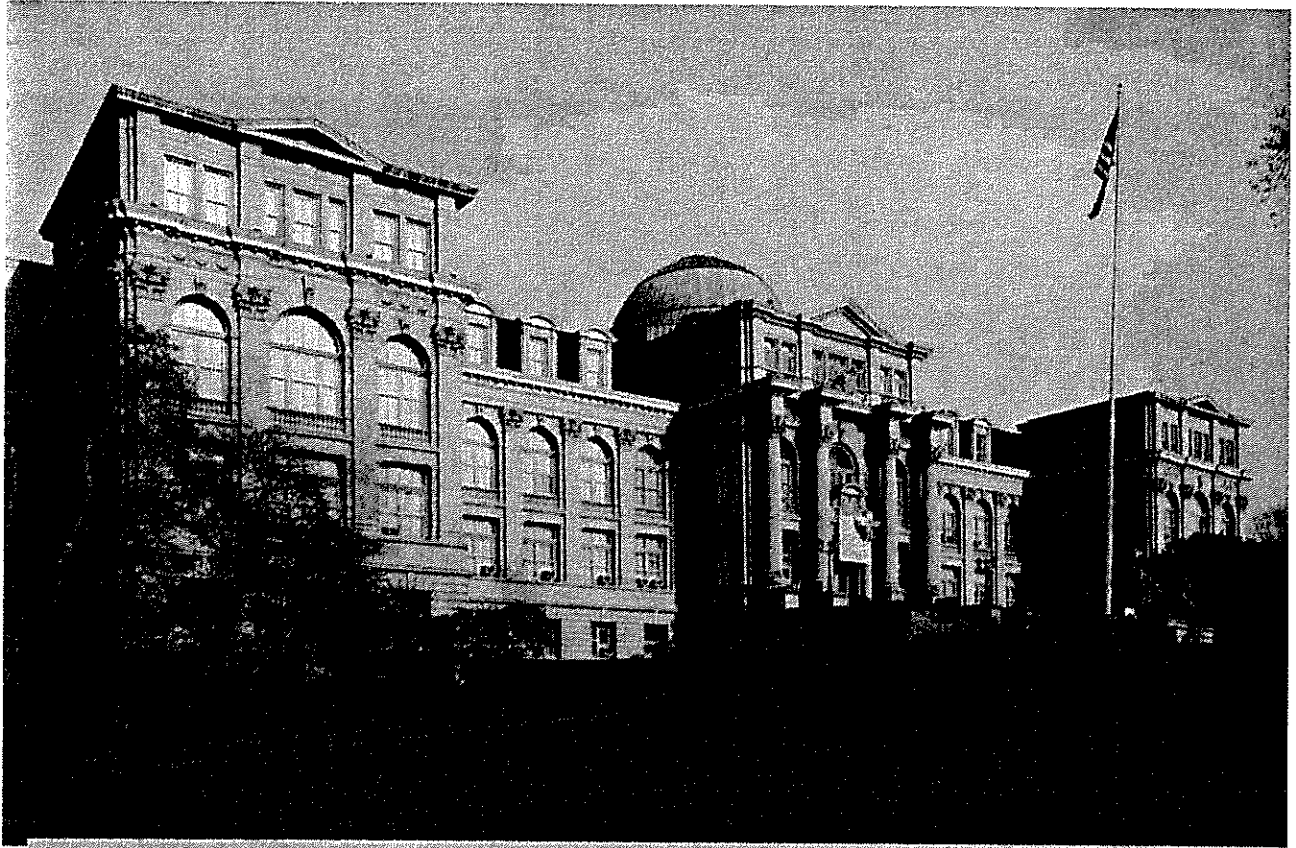
Museum (now Library) Building, New York Botanical Garden

Source: *The Brickbuilder*, August 1898 (top) and June 1900 (bottom)



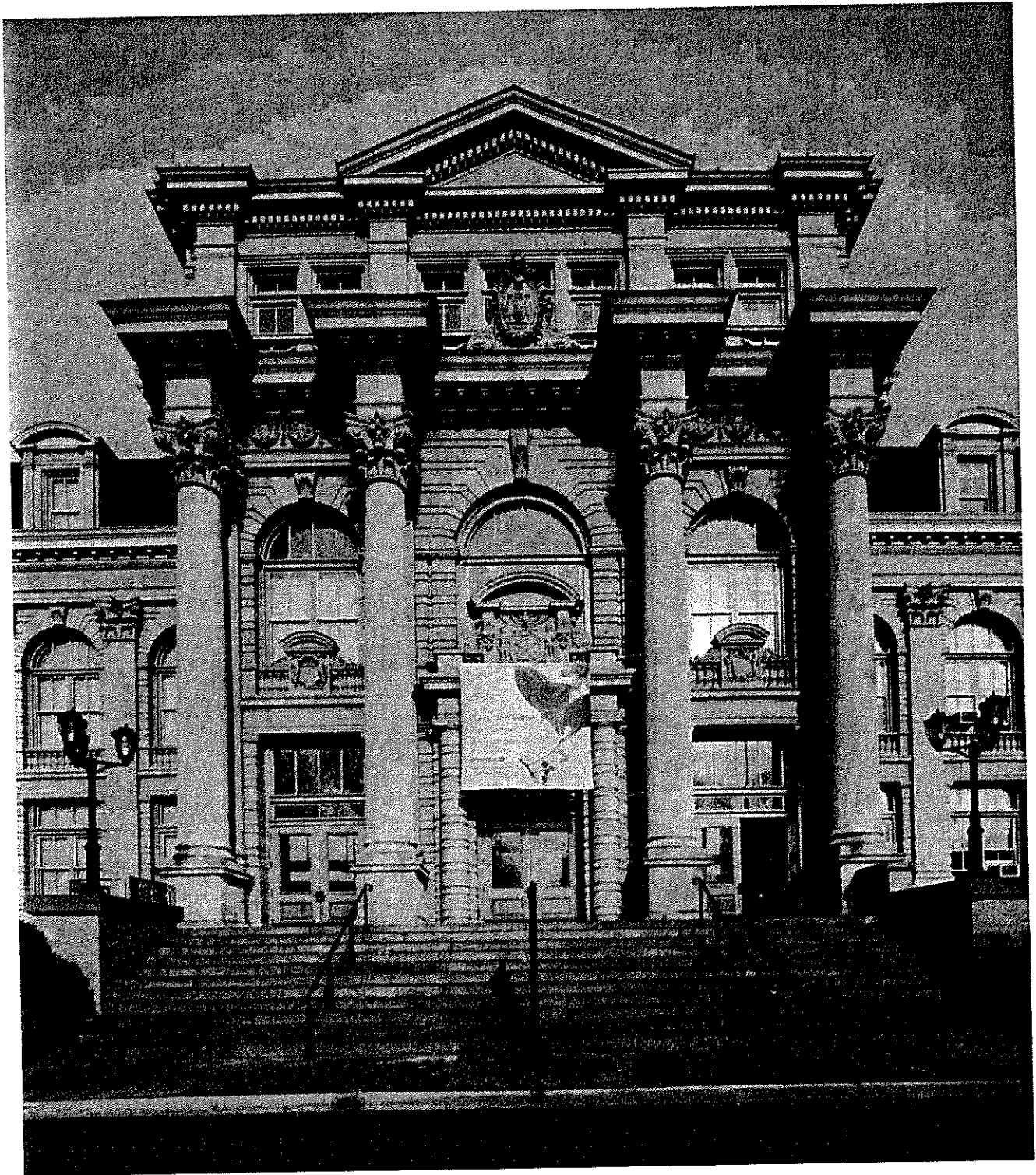
Museum (now Library) Building, New York Botanical Garden

Photos: Postcard (c. 1902-03) (top)
Christopher D. Brazee, 2009 (bottom)



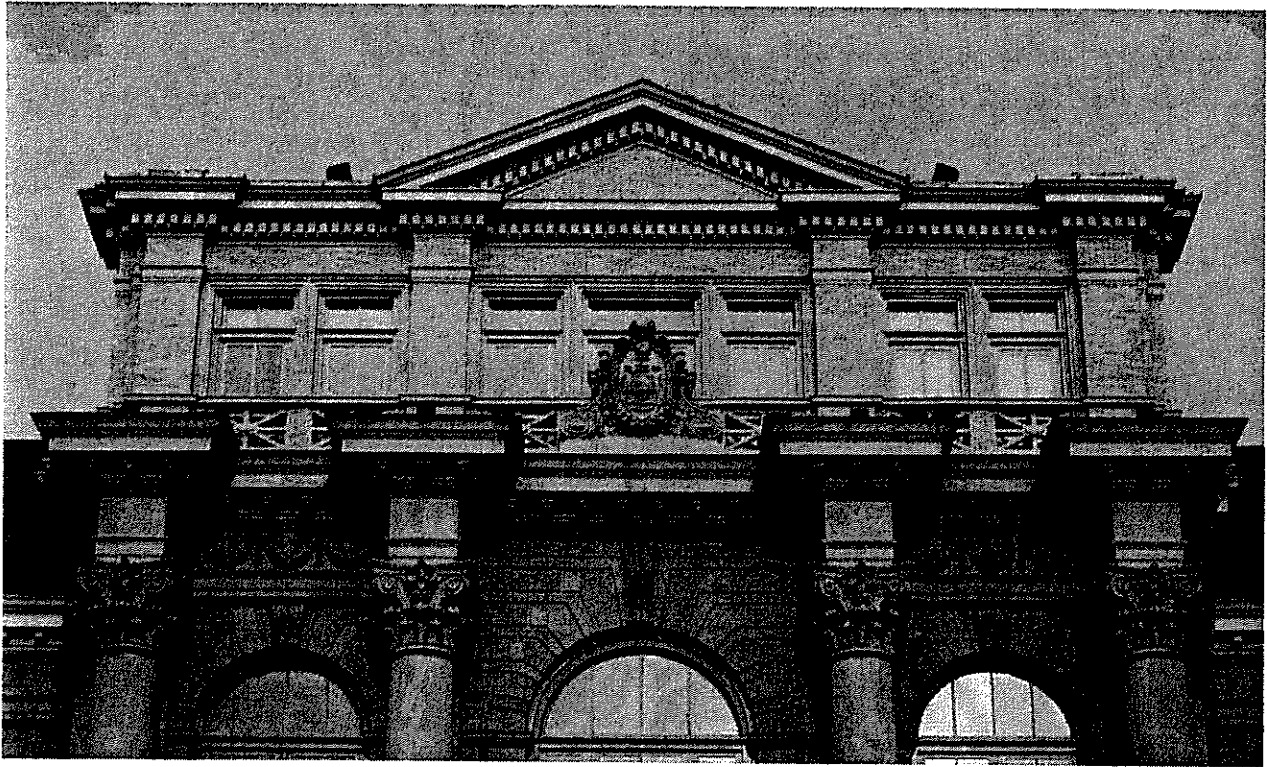
Museum (now Library) Building, New York Botanical Garden

Photos: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009



Museum (now Library) Building, New York Botanical Garden

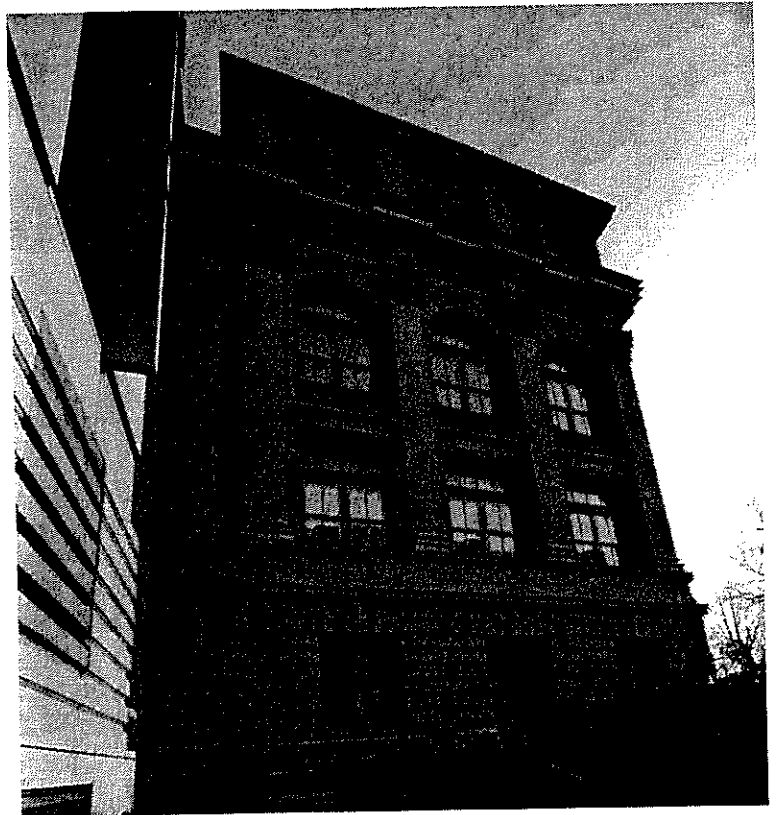
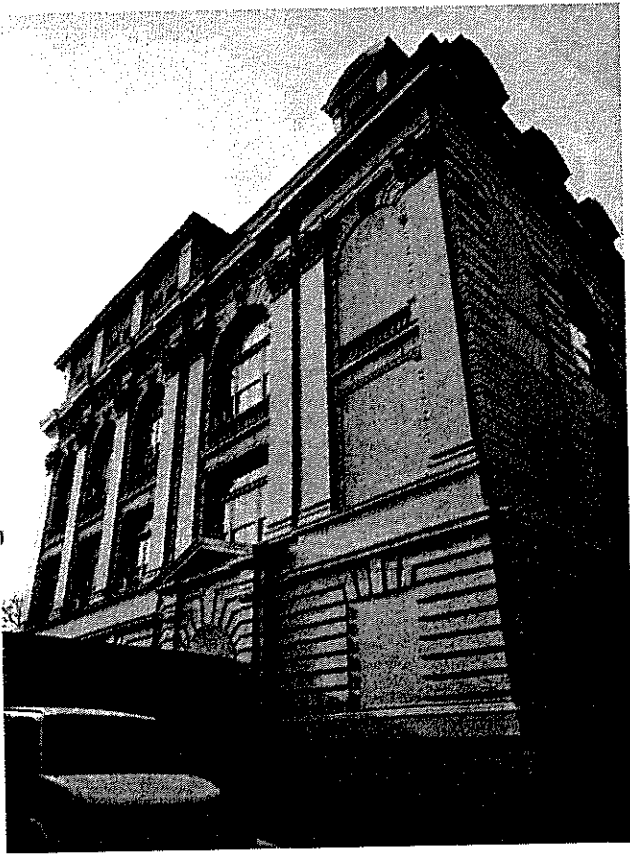
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009



Museum (now Library) Building, New York Botanical Garden

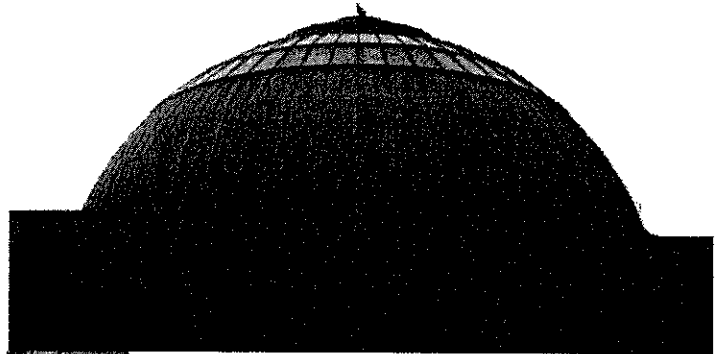
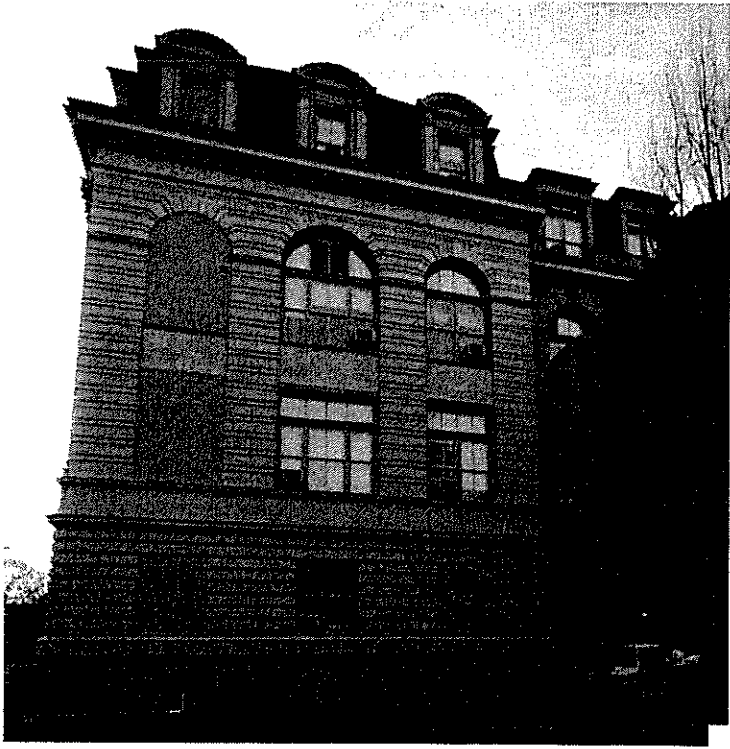
Central pavilion upper stories and cartouche with New York Botanical Garden seal

Photos: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009



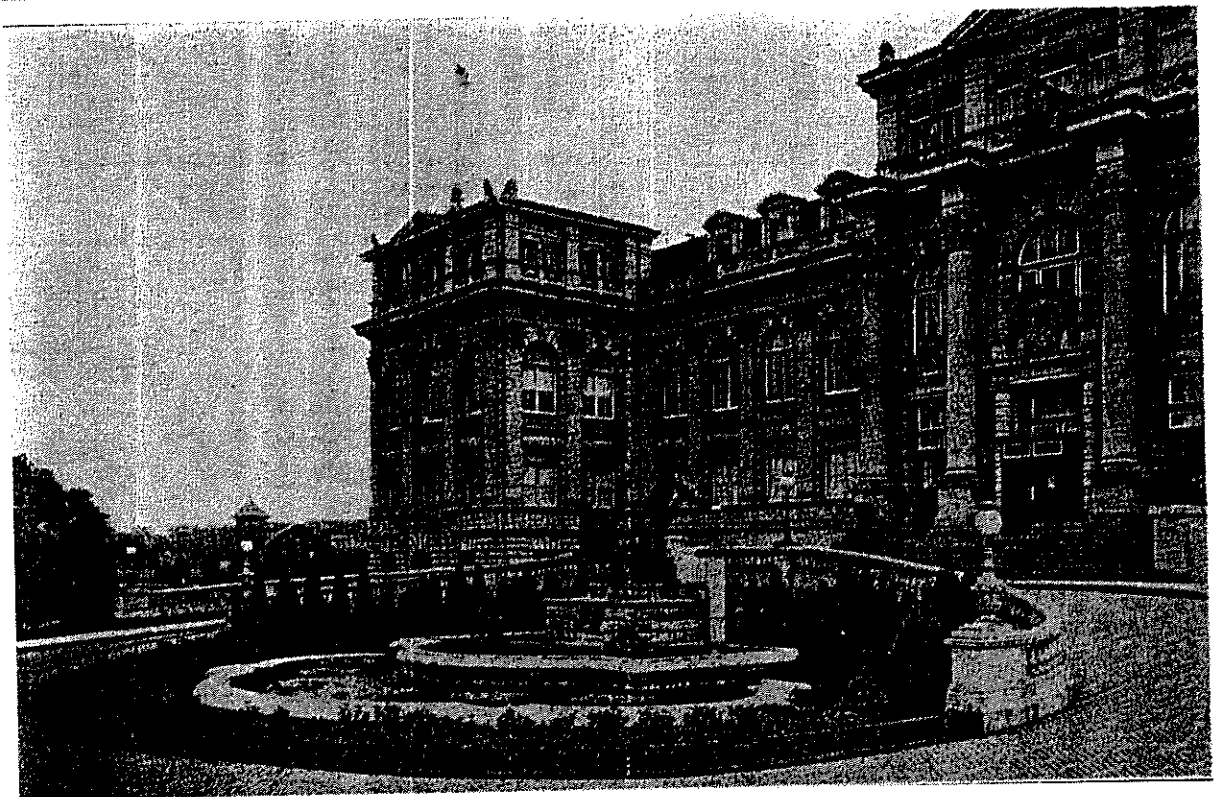
Museum (now Library) Building, New York Botanical Garden, south façade (top) and north façade (bottom)

Photos: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009



**Museum (now Library) Building,
New York Botanical Garden,
rear (east) facade**

Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009



Fountain of Life, New York Botanical Garden

Source: NYC Art Commission (1909) (top) and NYBG, *Bulletin* (1916) (bottom)



Fountain of Life, New York Botanical Garden

Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009



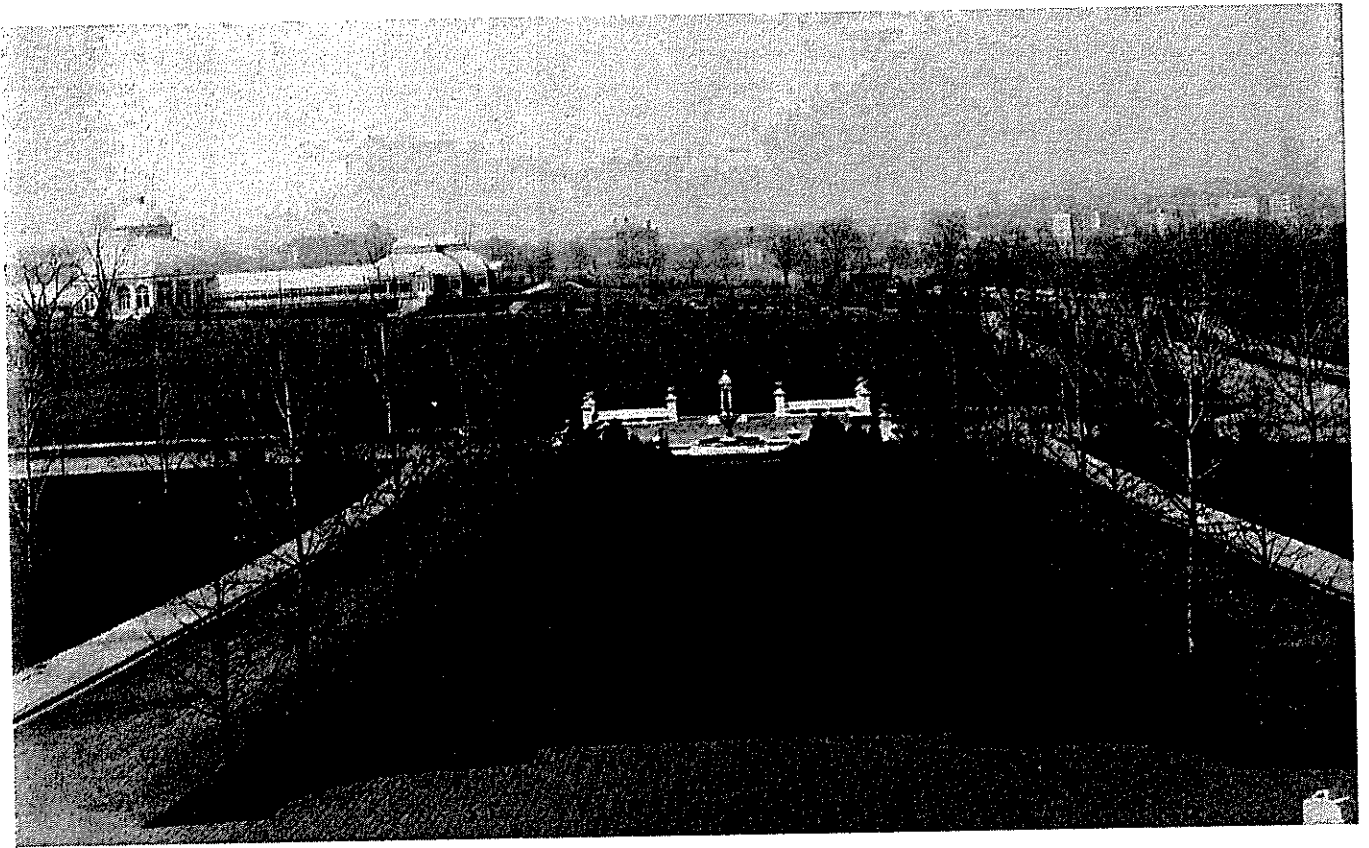
Fountain of Life, New York Botanical Garden

Photo: Christopher D. Brazeel, 2009



Fountain of Life, New York Botanical Garden

Photos: Christopher D. Brazeo, 2009



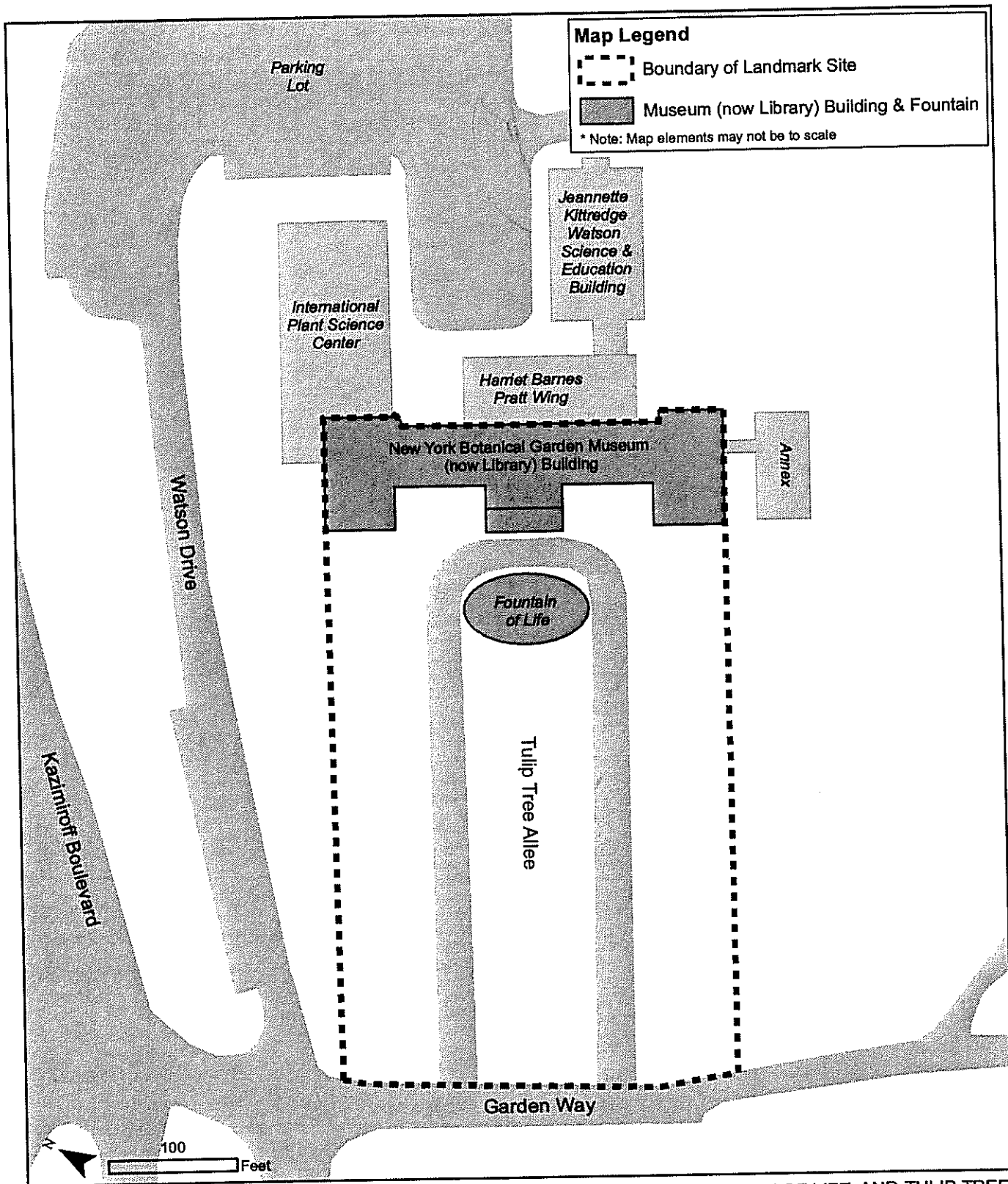
Tulip Tree Allee, New York Botanical Garden (c. 1906-10)

Photo: Courtesy of the Collections of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden



Tulip Tree Allee, New York Botanical Garden

Photos: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009 (top) and Cynthia Danza, 2008 (bottom)



NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN MUSEUM (NOW LIBRARY) BUILDING, FOUNTAIN OF LIFE, AND TULIP TREE ALLEE (LP-2311), Watson Drive and Garden Way, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, Borough of the Bronx, Tax Map Block 3272, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the property bounded by a line that corresponds to the outermost edges of the rear (eastern) portion of the original 1898-1901 Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the International Plant Science Center, Harriet Barnes Pratt Library Wing, and Jeannette Kittredge Watson Science and Education Building), the southernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building (excluding the Annex) and a line extending southwesterly to Garden Way, the eastern curbline of Garden Way to a point on a line extending southwesterly from the northernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building, and northeasterly along said line and the northernmost edge of the original Museum (now Library) Building, to the point of beginning.

Designated: March 24, 2009

20095459MLA

NYC COUNCIL Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 24, 2009, Designation List 411
LP-2316

2009 APR -1 P 2: 25

JAMAICA HIGH SCHOOL, 167-01 Gothic Drive, Jamaica, Queens
Built: 1925-7, architect, William H. Gompert

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

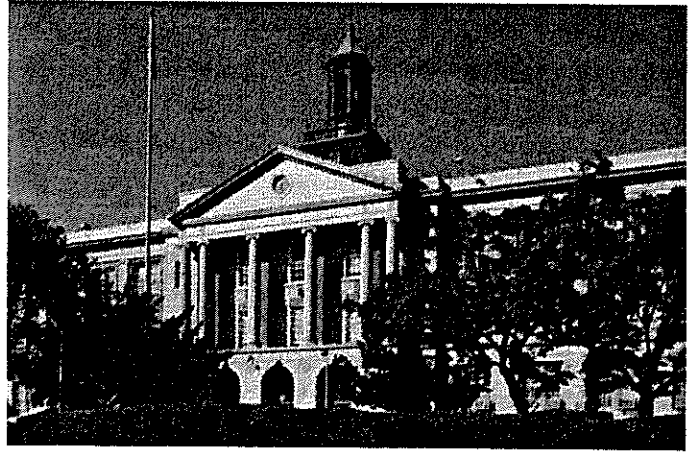
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2009
167-01 GOTHIC DRIVE
JAMAICA, QUEENS
NYC 11432

Landmark Site: Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 9858, Lot 100, in part consisting of that portion of the lot south of the masonry wall that is 15 feet north of the central wing of the school and that extends along the southern line of Lot 87 across Lot 100 to the point where it meets 168th Street.

On December 16, 2008, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Jamaica High School and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 2). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were eight speakers in favor of designation including a representative of Assemblyman Rory Lancman and of Councilmember James Gennaro. Jamaica High School Principal Walter Achim spoke in support of designation, as did representatives of the Historic Districts Council, the Landmarks Conservancy the Central Queens Historical Association, the Jamaica Hill Community Association and the New York City School Construction Authority. The Commission also received letters in support of designation from Councilmember Leroy Comrie, the Municipal Art Society, and several individuals. There were no speakers in opposition.

Summary

This large, classically-styled public high school was designed by William Gompert and opened in 1927 to accommodate the rapidly expanding population of Jamaica, Queens. Residential development of Queens flourished after the construction of the Queensboro Bridge in 1909 and the improvement of other forms of transportation such as roads, subways and trains. The previously rural spaces in this borough suddenly became more accessible and developers surged in, building huge numbers of houses and apartment buildings for people seeking to escape crowded living conditions in Manhattan and Brooklyn.



In 1924 William Gompert was appointed to the position of Superintendent of School Buildings, following C.B.J. Snyder who served in this position from before Consolidation until 1923. Snyder had been the first Superintendent to deal with the physical needs of a newly-unified school district enlarged by a wave of immigration around the turn of the 20th century. Although Snyder designed a prodigious number of school buildings, the demand for more space was equally great when Gompert began his work. With the growth of new neighborhoods and a continuing flood of immigrants, the New York City school system was sorely stretched, with many students in half-day sessions or attending classes in rented facilities designed for other uses.

At its opening Jamaica High School had the capacity to seat 3,388 students. Its Georgian Revival style was said to help "Americanize" the numerous immigrant children among its student body. It was fitted with the latest and most complete facilities available, including fully equipped athletic fields and a field house added in 1929. Its expansive grounds are quite unusual for New York City where schools are more likely to be crammed into tight city lots. As the population of Queens soared during the rest of the 20th century and the original, mostly European population was replaced by a mix of immigrants from South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean this building has continued to anchor the neighborhood and provide a rich educational environment for the children of the borough.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Jamaica, Queens¹

Jamaica, in central Queens, is one of the oldest and most densely populated areas in the borough. The southern part of the area centered around Beaver Pond and was inhabited by a Native American tribe called the Jameco or Yamecah, (a word meaning Beaver in Algonquin) when the first Europeans arrived there in 1655. They came from neighboring Hempstead looking for more space to farm. In 1656, Robert Jackson applied to Governor Stuyvesant for a patent and "purchased" 10 acres of land from the native tribe.² A further patent in 1660 extended and incorporated the settlement under the Dutch name Rusdorp, meaning resting place. The town's original boundaries can be approximated today by Jamaica Avenue on the north, Linden Boulevard on the south, the Van Wyck Expressway on the west and Farmers Boulevard on the east.

The town's name was changed to Jamaica when the English took over in 1664. Queens County (then including all of Nassau County) was chartered in 1683 as one of the ten counties of the colony of New York and official town patents were given to Jamaica, Newtown, and Flushing. Through the next century the community of Jamaica served as the county seat and became a trading post where farmers from outlying areas brought their produce. During the Revolutionary War, many residents supported the British although the town did have its own company of 56 Minutemen. A 1698 census of Queens County showed a total population of 3,366 whites and 199 blacks.³

Although early records indicate the existence of slaves, throughout its history Jamaica also had a free black population. One of its most well-know black residents was Wilson Rantus who was born in Jamaica in 1807. He owned his own farm and invested in other residential properties in the town. Well-educated, he started a school for black children and became involved in the effort (along with other black men from Queens such as Samuel V. Berry from Jamaica and Henry Amberman of Flushing) to achieve the right to vote for black citizens.

Incorporated as a village in 1814, Jamaica became a center of trade on Long Island. Early roads, and the first railroad in 1836, provided a link between Eastern Long Island and New York. In a story concerning life in the town in 1837, a local resident is quoted as saying, "Hundreds of persons daily pass from Jamaica to and from the city of New York; our boarding houses are often full."⁴ As a half-way point to New York City from rural Long Island, citizens in Jamaica also became known for making and repairing wagons.⁵ More growth arrived after the Civil War, with the beginning of a horse car line in 1866 and an electric trolley in 1888.

During the 19th century Jamaica evolved into a retreat for urban dwellers who patronized its numerous inns and saloons on weekend excursions and built large summer homes on its open land. The permanent population of Jamaica increased steadily throughout the second half of the century and eventually some of the nearby farms were subdivided for house lots. Throughout the 1890s many of the blocks along Fulton Street and the surrounding streets began to be developed with two- and three-story brick and frame houses.⁶

The decade prior to World War I brought a series of transportation improvements that opened Jamaica and the entire Borough of Queens to rapid growth and development. The Long Island Railroad was electrified in 1905-08, the Queensboro Bridge was opened in 1909, railroad tunnels were completed beneath the East River in 1910, and the elevated line was extended along Jamaica Avenue in 1918. Between 1900 and 1920, the population of Jamaica quadrupled and its commercial district became one of the busiest and most highly valued on Long Island. As soldiers returned from World War I wanting to settle down and start families, a shortage of building materials and a financial downturn exacerbated the lack of housing in the New York

area. The stage was set for a massive construction boom in the 1920s as “families fled from paying exorbitant rents for walk-up apartments in Manhattan to buy houses in Queens.”⁷

During this time, the area near Hillside Avenue filled with Colonial Revival style rowhouses for working people. There were detached residences as well, often in the Tudor Revival or bungalow style. Queens came to be known as the “Borough of Homes.”⁸ While low-scale apartments around a central court were less common in Jamaica than in other parts of Queens, there were some taller buildings called “hotel apartments” constructed in the 1920s. A 1926 newspaper article reported the apartments currently under construction in Queens would house “several thousand families.”⁹ Growth continued throughout the 20th century as more people purchased automobiles and new areas not reached by mass transit became accessible. The 1930 Queens census showed that foreign-born residents numbered just 24%, with sizeable numbers of blacks in Corona, Jamaica and Flushing.¹⁰ In the early 1930s, South Jamaica had a mixed population, with about 40% Jews as well as blacks, Italians and other white residents.¹¹ Much of the white population began to move away in the 1950s and 60s, often replaced by South Asians. An article in the *Long Island Daily Press* in 1956 called Jamaica “the fastest growing community in America.”¹²

High Schools in New York City¹³

Before Consolidation of the City of New York in 1898, the existence and quality of public higher education in New York varied greatly depending on the location. Brooklyn organized its first public day high schools in 1878.¹⁴ Erasmus Hall Academy, started as a private school, received a charter from the Regents of the State of New York in 1787 and was transferred to the Brooklyn Board of Education in 1895. In Manhattan, the first free academy for studies above the primary grades was begun in 1849. It started as a five year program but in 1853, New York State allowed it to be called the Free College with a collegiate course of four years and a one year preparatory course.¹⁵ In 1870, the New York Board of Education established the Daily Female Normal and High School to educate girls to become teachers.¹⁶ Queens had two high schools, the Flushing Academy, a private school founded in 1875 and one in Long Island City started in 1889. Staten Island had only high schools classes in some elementary schools.

With Consolidation, it fell to the first Superintendent of Schools in New York City, William Henry Maxwell (1852-1920), to create a unified public educational system and to bring together areas that previously had different educational policies, standards and experiences.¹⁷ At his retirement in 1918, Maxwell was credited with being “responsible for the development of secondary education in the City, for improved methods of training teachers [and] for better school buildings.”¹⁸

Maxwell was aided by reformers such as Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University who had long been concerned about the poor state of public education in New York. Butler started the Teachers College in 1891 and in 1894 began the Public Education Society to help make the public aware of the terrible conditions in its schools. He campaigned for improved high schools to prepare young people for their future lives and to be good citizens. He helped frame the idea that public education is a communal responsibility and that it required sufficient public funding. This led to the passage of the School Reform Law of 1896, creating a professional Board of Superintendents to provide the daily management of the schools. Butler was also instrumental in the charter revision of 1901 that was an effort to remove political influence from the education system. It gave more consolidated power to the City Superintendent of Schools to set standards for curriculum and teacher hiring, while abolishing the separate school boards from each borough.

In 1898 there were 35 independent school districts in Queens, among them were the larger, urban areas of Long Island City, College Point, Flushing, Jamaica, and Richmond Hill. There were also two schools for "colored" children, one in Flushing and one in Jamaica.¹⁹ Generally the course of study in all these schools was seven years, although in 1900 only about 13,700 of the half million enrolled students finished all seven. In Queens, among those who did finish, only 60% went on to study in high school. Originally high schools accepted students directly out of elementary school for a five year course. By the turn of the century separate high school buildings existed only in Long Island City (started 1889) and Flushing (begun 1875), with high school departments located in seven elementary schools in Queens.

Superintendent Maxwell believed that universal education was "necessary for an organized and harmonious society" and that it would lead to "universal individual development" and "equality of opportunity."²⁰ The 1894 Compulsory Education Law requiring school attendance until age 14, along with large numbers of new immigrants to New York led to huge population growth in the schools. From 1920 to 1930, the population of New York City increased from 5.6 million to 6.9 million, including a foreign-born population that increased from 1.99 million to 2.29 million. During this same period in Queens, the population grew from 470,000 in 1920 to more than 1 million, mostly as a result of improved transportation and an increase in available housing units.²¹ A budget cutting proposal by Mayor Hylan's administration in 1926 exempted projects in Queens because they recognized the extreme need for improvements in that Borough.²²

Between 1906 and 1926, the high school-age population in New York City grew from 21,493 to 125,201 or an increase of 482%.²³ Authorities were scrambling to keep up with the overwhelming need for more buildings. In his school review of 1948, the Superintendent reported that, "The City embarked upon the greatest school construction program in its history....But the erection of new buildings could not keep pace with the growth and movement of the school population."²⁴ The huge population growth in the outer boroughs created a need for more buildings as well as for modern facilities that were different from earlier schools.²⁵

The Architect: William H. Gompert²⁶

The person charged with planning and overseeing the construction of the needed school buildings was William H. Gompert (1875-1946). Gompert was born in New York City and educated at Adelphi Academy, Pratt Institute, and the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. After employment in the firms of McKim, Mead & White, Maynicke & Franke, and Harding & Gooch, he established his own practice around 1906 and specialized in the design of commercial and institutional buildings. He was elected president of the Brooklyn chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1923. Gompert was hired in February 1923 by the New York City Board of Education as an expert to assist in the reorganization of the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance and to facilitate the construction of public schools; his initial six-month contract gave him the "powers and duties of Superintendent of School Buildings."²⁷ According to the *New York Times*, Gompert had "much experience in the directing of large building construction enterprises."²⁸ After a six-month extension of his contract, Gompert was appointed in January 1924 to the position of Architect and Superintendent of School Buildings for the Board of Education, and became the third-highest paid official in the administration of Mayor John F. Hylan. Gompert was the first successor to the noted architect C.B.J. Snyder, Superintendent of School Buildings from 1891 until January 1, 1923, who had been responsible for the vast school construction program following the consolidation of New York City in 1898, and had been "virtually forced out of the post under pressure by . . . Mayor Hylan."²⁹

To alleviate the serious overcrowding in the schools in the 1920s, New York City undertook another extensive program of school construction. Gompert was forced to contend with a significant shortage of bricklayers in the citywide building industry, as well as a lack of interest on the part of major construction firms to bid on public school construction projects. Nonetheless, he attempted to bring about economy and change in the process of school construction, including standardizing design and construction work, employing general contracts instead of individual construction contracts, and instituting double shifts to shorten construction time. In 1925, however, charges began to surface (first by a mayoral candidate) that many of the schools constructed under Gompert were defective. By the end of 1927, three separate investigations were underway and Gompert resigned in December.³⁰ Former Mayor Hylan responded to critics that Gompert was under attack because he had "built too many schools to suit those that do not want the children educated."³¹ The Board of Education's Joint Committee of Architects and Engineers issued its report in 1928 and called Gompert's schools "in general honest, safe, efficient and appropriate to the purpose."³²

In his nearly five years as school architect, Gompert was credited with overseeing the design and construction of 169 new schools or school additions, including DeWitt Clinton and Theodore Roosevelt High Schools (1929), the Bronx; James Madison High School (1926), Brooklyn; Jamaica High School (1927) and Far Rockaway High School (1929), Queens in austere versions of such contemporary institutional styles as Collegiate Gothic, Georgian, and Spanish Colonial. The towered Public School 101 (1929), Forest Hills Gardens, has been considered Gompert's most stylistically interesting design.³³ The New York Training School for Teachers/New York Model School (a designated New York City Landmark) was one of the most significant school commissions produced by Gompert's office. Gompert continued to be listed in city directories until at least 1940, and was associate architect of the U.S. Marine Hospital (1933-36, with Kenneth Murchison and Tachau & Vaught), Staten Island.

Jamaica High School

Jamaica had previously met its educational needs with a brick school at 162-02 Hillside Avenue, designed by William B. Tubby and built in 1896-8. This building originally housed 115 students and 7 teachers in its high school department.³⁴ By 1909, the high school had grown to 826 students with 36 teachers.³⁵ By 1926 Jamaica High School required three annexes and part-time study to accommodate all the children. The community eagerly awaited the completion of a new high school to alleviate these problems.

Lobbying for a new high school for Jamaica began by 1922 and architectural plans were in place by 1924,³⁶ but various citizen and commercial groups supported different sites and there was no consensus as to the best location. This site, a "vast plateau of land at the head of 168th Street" in the Hill section, near Hillcrest Avenue was finally chosen in 1925 and work began.³⁷ The school opened February 1, 1927. By this time another large lot behind the school had been acquired and plans were underway to create athletic facilities there.³⁸ In May, 1929 the Board of Education approved approximately \$275,000 to acquire the property in front of the high school building. The houses that were originally located there blocked the view of the new school building from the main streets. This purchase allowed for the houses to be razed and the creation of a large green area with appropriate landscaping and building approaches.³⁹ This purchase also created the largest school site in the country, with almost 625,000 square feet.⁴⁰

The building is in the Georgian Revival style with granite columns, brick walls and a symmetrical design. The entrance is located in a central pavilion with a shallow pediment and is topped by a tiered cupola that stands out in this residential area. It sits on a gentle hill surrounded

by lawn and a series of terraces and stone stairways. With a height of only three stories and its expansive setting, this building is highly unusual for a city school.

Because of the spacious site, the school was created in an "E" plan, with dimensions of 400 feet long and 200 feet deep. The two outside wings accommodated 83 classrooms and the central projecting space held the auditorium, several gymnasias and a swimming pool. The building was designed with the latest in science labs and specialized rooms for drawing, home economics, nursing and hygiene. On the inside, a series of murals showing the complete history of Long Island was installed in 1930, created by the "noted New York artist" Suzanne Miller.⁴¹ At the rear of the building is a well-equipped field house in a complimentary style, along with a series of tracks and playing fields that accommodated numerous sport activities.⁴² (Neither the murals nor the athletic facilities are part of the designation.)

Notable alumni from Jamaica High School include Art Buchwald, noted author and columnist, movie director Francis Ford Coppola, sportswriter George Vecsey, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, writer and journalist, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Congressional representative from Texas' 18th district, Pulitzer-Prize winning poet Alan Dugan, and Obba Babatundé, actor on Broadway, motion pictures and television.⁴³

The Design of Jamaica High School

Jamaica High School was designed using the Georgian Revival style, an architectural style that was popular in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as part of the general use of various classical revival styles for civic buildings, a period defined by some as "the American Renaissance."⁴⁴ At this time, many people in this country had begun to see themselves as a world power and felt the need have a similar stature as Europeans, with similar kinds of cultural references. Classical styles were also believed to help Americanize the many new immigrants who arrived in New York from diverse backgrounds and needed to be acculturated to the American mainstream. The Georgian style, in particular, was very regular and depended on an imposed order and symmetry that came from its original development.

The Georgian Revival style is based on details and materials of buildings originally from the 18th century, (generally during the rule of George I-IV in England) although the large scale of the building reflects the needs of people in the 20th century for larger spaces and modern accommodations. This style is defined by buildings with a symmetrical arrangement, the use of contrasting brick with stone trim and classical details such as double-height columns, a pedimented portico and cupola. At Jamaica High school, the Georgian Revival style can be seen in the building's central entrance portico supported by over-scaled columns, the symmetrical, axial arrangement of its wings extending to each side and then to the rear, and the use of brick and stone as facing materials. This style of building was called by contemporaries "distinctive American architecture particularly fitted to Jamaica, where one of the earliest settlements was founded."⁴⁵

Because the architect had an exceptionally large lot to work with, the school is only three stories high and expands over a large area to accommodate more than 3,000 students. The elaborate drives and terraces leading to the building and its site on the crown of a hill help to increase the grand effect of such a large, classically-inspired building. Its important role as a proud community symbol continues to the present day.

Subsequent History

In 1948, a bronze plaque was dedicated to the former 188 students of Jamaica High School who were killed in World War II. The memorial was designed by Paul Fjelde, a professor at Pratt Institute and was installed on the side of the school near Gothic Drive (since removed).

As Jamaica continued to attract more residents, its high school was reported to have the largest enrollment in the borough, with 4,613 students in 1950. The Queens Assistant Superintendent of Schools reported that "Young couples who have children of school age are moving further out on the Island, to Eastern Queens and to Nassau."⁴⁶ By 1956, however, the high school was "falling apart" and parents were upset by the conditions which were described as peeling interior paint, crumbling plaster, leaky faucets and gas jets, and worn electrical connections. The need was great for repairs and modernization⁴⁷ but it did not occur until 1965. At this time a major interior overhaul included expanding the library, modernizing the plumbing, heating, and electrical systems, installing a public address system and an elevator, as well as plaster and concrete repairs⁴⁸

By 1985 conditions at the school had greatly improved. Jamaica High School had the third lowest drop-out rate in the city and appeared in the city's list of outstanding high schools. The school received a Carnegie grant for a project to study Jamaica's ethnic diversity and immigrant experiences that resulted in a student-written publication about its history and the immigrant experiences of its residents.⁴⁹ A recent "Inside Schools" profile of Jamaica High School notes that its large size allows for a wide range of offerings, courses, activities and athletics, including special programs in finance, law, business and computer science. Its recent population includes approximately 60% African American, 20% Asian 18% Hispanic, 3% White.⁵⁰

Description

Jamaica High School sits on a rise of land between Gothic Drive and 84th Avenue in a residential section of Jamaica filled with private homes and apartments. There is a small park with a pond to the southwest and a vocational high school is located across the street at the rear of the lot. The school is fronted by a large lawn and there are several athletic fields and a field house behind the school building. (The athletic fields and field house are not part of this designation.) A masonry wall behind the school extends from Chapin Drive on the west to 168th Street on the east and forms the rear boundary of the designated property. The extensive school grounds are surrounded by a non-historic iron fence. Two openings in the fence on Gothic Drive, at the center point of the building, lead to a central stone wall with a sculpted panel facing out and a built-in seat facing the school. A series of walkways and rock-faced stairs create dramatic approaches to the building, in the front and on both sides. A grand driveway bisects the front lawn, running from 166th Street to Chapin Parkway, a short way down the hill from the front of the building.

The building has an "E" shaped plan, with the continuous, wide side facing the front, toward Gothic Drive. Symmetrically designed, this façade has a projecting pavilion at the center and short, projecting wings at each end. On the opposite side, three long wings extend to the north. A broad paved area fronts the school and is accented by a large central flagpole. Grassy hills with occasional mature trees and bushes extend beyond the pavement and on both sides while the rear of the school is paved for parking.

The building is three stories tall, with a shallow-pitched, standing seam copper roof. The ground story is faced with rusticated stone and the two stories above are faced with red brick with stone and terra-cotta trim. A basement story is fronted by an open areaway fenced by iron pipe railings. All of the basement windows have non-historic metal grilles. Most of the windows are replacement, double-hung, multi-light windows, except for those on the auditorium and the gymnasium in the rear.⁵¹

Front Façade, central pavilion: The projecting central pavilion is reached by several broad steps. The ground floor has three, round-headed entrance doors set in stone voussoirs. Each

opening holds a pair of paneled bronze doors set in an elaborate bronze grille with transom and fanlight. Elaborately-detailed, paired copper lanterns are fixed to the wall to each side of this set of doors, while each pair is topped by a non-historic light fixture. Round stone seals are set between the three sets of doors, one holding the seal of the City of New York and the other the seal of the Board of Education.

Above the base the two stories in the pavilion are three bays wide. Each bay at each level holds paired double-hung windows with stone keystones. Shallow stone bas-reliefs are located in the spandrels between the floors. Double-height, granite Ionic columns front this section and support a terra-cotta cornice engraved with the name "Jamaica High School." Above this is a triangular pediment that is faced with terra-cotta blocks and trimmed with dentils and moldings of terra cotta. A copper-edged clock is located in the middle of the pediment. Set back slightly on each side of the central pavilion are narrow bays faced with rusticated stone; a single narrow window is located at each level in these bays.

Centered above the front pavilion is a copper-clad cupola.⁵² It is set on a square base, each side of which is three bays wide with a central window or door flanked by flat panels. Pilasters divide the bays. The base is topped by an open balustrade with urns at each corner. A polygonal steeple rises above the base, capped by a flared polygonal roof with a weathervane at its peak. The lower section of this steeple is solid, but the upper area is composed of pilaster-framed open arches that hold a set of bells secured by balusters within the arches.

Front Façade, sides: The two sides of the front façade are recessed further from the central pavilion and extend to the east and west for six bays before projecting toward the front for two bays. Each bay of the ground story has a pair of double-hung windows set in the rusticated stone façade. This level is topped by a stone string course. The two stories above this are faced in brick with double-height, flat, Ionic stone pilasters between each bay. Paired, double-hung windows are located in each bay with a shallow bas-relief panel in the spandrels between the two floors. A fluted terra-cotta frieze broken at intervals by ornate medallions and capped by a terra-cotta cornice crowns the composition.

The same fenestration pattern continues as the two wings wrap around toward the front (south), with continuous rusticated stone piers at each corner. Flat stone pilasters are located just inside these piers. The south-facing facades have a single bay marked by a central, round-headed entrance on the ground floor. The doors have been changed but the original bronze fanlight is still extant and non-historic lights flank each entrance. In each of the two stories above this are single, double-hung windows with splayed stone lintels and keystones set in the brick facade. There is a carved stone panel between the floors and an ornate iron balcony on double brackets in front of the lower window. The eastern wing has historic iron railings that flank the small set of stairs leading to the entryway while the western wing has non-historic pipe railings.

Side Facades: The facades that face east and west are identical, mirror images of each other. The side façades are 14 bays wide, including two bays at each end that form a slightly projecting pavilion framed by rusticated stone piers at each side. A stone string course carries around from the front and tops the rusticated stone base, while the two floors above are faced with brick. The base has paired double-hung windows in each bay. A slight drop towards the rear of the building allows the paired basement windows to become larger toward the back. Each of the bays is separated by double-height, flat stone Ionic pilasters. The ten bays between the two end pavilions set back slightly. The fifth bay back from the front has an entrance at the ground story formed by a round-headed opening with replacement door topped by a fanlight filled with multiple rectangular lights. Non-historic light fixtures flank the door which is reached by a short stairway with historic iron railings. The two stories above the entrance are different from the other bays, with a single window topped by a triangular pediment at the second story and a single window

with a stone lintel at the third story. This type of fenestration pattern occurs at the fifth bay from the rear also. All the other bays have paired double-hung windows with keystones and stone spandrel panels between them. The entire elevation is capped by a fluted terra-cotta cornice with medallions, dentil moldings and parapet.

Rear: Three wings extend toward the north. The two side wings hold classrooms and continue the fenestration and decorative motifs from the other facades. The center wing houses the auditorium and several gymnasia and extends farther north than the others.

The two side wings are almost identical, with narrow northern facades that echo the short southern facades of these wings. They are framed by rusticated stone piers and flat stone pilasters. Each has single bay with a central entrance with non-historic doors under a round-arched fanlight. The entrance on the east wing has non-historic doors under a non-historic transom, while the entrance on the west wing has non-historic doors but retains its original transom and fanlight. A divided stairway with historic iron railings leads to the door on each side. Each of the two floors above has a single, central window with a bas relief stone panel in the spandrel between the floors. An historic balcony with ornate ironwork carried on double brackets fronts the second story window. A stone string course above the ground story and terra-cotta frieze and cornice at the top continue onto the north facades from both side facades.

The facades of the two wings that face into the courtyard (the western façade of the eastern wing and the eastern façade of the western wing) are identical. Each is eight bays wide. The two outside bays are set off by stone pilasters and framed by rusticated stone piers that edge into quoins on the inside of the second bay. The ground story of the two outside bays is faced with rusticated stone, but the other bays are faced with brick and the six inside bays do not have stone pilasters separating the bays. Except for the fifth bay in from the end, each bay has paired windows topped by brick splayed arches with stone keystones. The stone string course above the first story and the terra-cotta frieze, cornice and moldings at the top continue from the other facades. The fifth bay (from the north end) is distinguished by a single-story projecting entranceway in which is set a triple doorway (non-historic) under an original multi-paned fanlight. It is framed by a brick molding with stone keystone, and non-historic light fixtures on each side. A stone panel with bas relief of swags is located above the doorway. The top of the projection has a historic iron railing around it. A single window is located in each of the two stories above this. The window on the second story is capped by a triangular pediment while the one on the third story is framed by a footed stone sill and plain stone lintel. Paired, square-headed windows are at the basement level.

Between the side wings and the central wing, the main body of the building extends for seven bays on each side. The two sides are mirror images except for a non-historic pipe that extends for the entire height of the building, in the middle of the western part. All of this façade is faced with brick and the stone string course above the first story and the terra-cotta frieze, cornice and parapet continue around from the other facades. Except for the bay closest to the central wing (which has a single narrow window in each bay), each bay has paired, square-headed, double-hung windows with stone sills and brick splayed-arch lintels with stone keystones. At the corner where these facades meet the central wing is a one-story projecting entrance that houses three, non-historic doors.

Central Wing: The two sides of the central wing are mirror images of each other. The five bays closest to the central block of the building house the auditorium which can be seen from the large windows at the second story. Near the center of this façade is a single, projecting bay that holds another entrance door. The final four bays of this façade set back again and have another distinctive fenestration pattern, indicating the gymnasia and swimming pool that are housed here.

The five bays closest to the central block are fronted by a one-story projecting element that is topped by a stone balustrade. It has a stone base with brick above and a single, square-headed window in each of the five bays. Above this base and set back from it are five, double-height round-headed windows with original metal sash. They are edged by brick moldings with stone keystones. A single, stone bas relief is centered between this story and the one above it, which has five smaller windows topped by splayed stone lintels with keystones. The bay closest to the main body of the building has three window openings, all blocked by solid panels, while the other four bays have paired, square-headed window openings with multi-light, double-hung sash.

The projecting section, near the center of this façade has a square-headed entrance with three non-historic doors and transom at the ground level. It is flanked by non-historic lights and small, narrow windows. It is reached by a short set of stairs with historic iron railings. A second story with three single windows is located above the doorway and a stone string course above sets off the stone-faced lower floors from the two, brick-faced floors above. The upper section is framed by stone quoins and has a large, central Palladian window grouping at the third story and a single window with splayed lintel at the fourth story. The gable-fronted roof of this section is framed by projecting terra-cotta moldings with returns and has a round terra-cotta disk centered under the gable.

The section of this façade farthest from the central block has four bays. The main part of it sets back from the projecting section, but is fronted for two bays by a two-story section and by a single-story section for the last two bays. This single story wraps around the rear of this wing to meet a similar section on the other side. Both of these sections are topped by a stone balustrade. They are faced with stone and have square-headed windows.

The top two floors of this part are faced in brick, with stone quoins at the corners and terra-cotta cornice, frieze and parapet at the roofline. Each of the four bays is enclosed by a continuous arch recessed in the brick that contains two small windows on the third story and a large, round-headed arched window with original metal sash on the fourth story. Ornamental features of this section include terra-cotta disks between the large arches, stone keystones and brick moldings around the arches and rectangular bas relief spandrel panels between the third and fourth stories.

The narrow northern façade of the central wing faces the athletic fields, is seven bays wide and continues the motifs from the two sides. Its one-story, projecting base has square-headed windows with non-historic grilles set in the stone façade. It is topped by a stone balustrade and has non-historic light fixtures. The rest of the façade sets back one bay. The second story has paired large, windows and is topped by a stone string course. The two stories above are set within a brick recessed arch and consist of two small windows at the third story and a large, round-headed window at the fourth story. The same terra-cotta frieze, cornice and parapet continue around this façade as the others.

Researched and written by
Virginia Kurshan
Research Department

NOTES

- ¹ The information in this section comes from numerous sources, including: Benjamin F. Thompson, *History of Long Island* (New York: E. French, 1839); "Jamaica," in *The Encyclopedia of New York*, Thomas Jackson, ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995), 610-611; Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), *Suffolk Title and Guarantee Company building (LP-2088)* (New York: City of New York, 2001), report by Virginia Kurshan; LPC, *Jamaica Savings Bank (LP-2109)* (New York: City of New York, 2008), report by Donald Presa.
- ² The Native American "system of land tenure was that of occupancy for the needs of a group" and that those sales that the Europeans deemed outright transfers of property were to the Native Americans closer to leases or joint tenancy contracts where they still had rights to the property. Reginald Pelham Bolton, *New York City in Indian Possession*, 2nd ed. (New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, 1920; reprint 1975), 7, 14-15.
- ³ Jeff Gottlieb, "History of Jamaica," (n.d.) in the clippings file of the Long Island Division, Queens Library.
- ⁴ "The Jamaica of 1837," *Long Island Press*, Aug. 22, 1937.
- ⁵ "Horse and Wagon Days," *Long Island Press*, Dec. 26, 1937.
- ⁶ Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970, Jamaica (Queens Co.), New York (April, 1891) Sheets 8,9; and (Feb., 1897) Sheets 6, 11, 13, accessed at: <http://sanborn.umi.com/ny>.
- ⁷ "Elbow Room," *Long Island Press*, Jan. 9, 1938.
- ⁸ Theodore H.M. Prudon, ed. *Jamaica, Queens County, New York, Aspects of its History* (June, 1974) Columbia University Graduate Program for Restoration and Preservation of Historic Architecture, 134.
- ⁹ "Queens Builders Continue Activity," *New York Times*(NYT), Aug. 29, 1926, RE1.
- ¹⁰ History of Jamaica compiled by Jamaica High School students, 31. No bibliographical data. Located in Long Island History room of Queens Library.
- ¹¹ Jeff Gottlieb, "Jews of Downtown Jamaica," n.p., in Jamaica clippings file of Long Island Division, Queens Library.
- ¹² William A. Raidy, "Jamaica Marks 300th Birthday," *Long Island Daily Press*, Mar. 11, 1956.
- ¹³ Much of the information on the early years of higher education in New York comes from, Gary Hermalyn, *Morris High School and the Creation of the New York City Public High School System* (The Bronx, NY: The Bronx Historical Society, 1995).
- ¹⁴ Hermalyn, 8.
- ¹⁵ This institution became the City College of New York in 1866.
- ¹⁶ This later became the Normal College and then Hunter College.
- ¹⁷ LPC, *New York Training School for Teachers (LP-1859)* (New York: City of New York, 1997), report by Jay Shockley, 2.
- ¹⁸ Hermalyn, 35. Quote from Arthur Somers, of the Board of Education.
- ¹⁹ This situation was upheld by the Court of Appeals and led to the 1900 amendment to the Education Law that abolished segregated schools in New York City. New York City Board of Education, *The First Fifty Years: A Brief Review of the Progress, 1898-1948* (New York, 1948), 8.
- ²⁰ Hermalyn, 34.
- ²¹ *The First Fifty Years*, 85.
- ²² "\$100,000,000 Saved For the City's Need's," *New York Times*, Mar 17, 1926, p.27.
- ²³ *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools*, (New York Board of Education, 1926), 652.
- ²⁴ *The First Fifty Years*, 86.
- ²⁵ *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools*, 1925, 843.
- ²⁶ This material is taken from LPC, Gompert obit., *NYT*, May 21, 1946, 23; Henry and Elsie Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 238-239; James Ward, *Architects in Practice, New York City 1900-1940* (New York: Comm. for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 1989), 29; Robert A.M. Stern, Gregory Gilmartin, and Thomas Mellins, *New York 1930* (New York: Rizzoli Intl. Publ., 1987), 117-121; "William H. Gompert," *Who's Who in New York* (New York: Who's Who Publ., 1924), 519, and *Who's Who in America* 17 (Chicago: A.N. Marquis Co., 1932), 957; *Journal of the Board of Education*, (New York, 1923); ". . . Gompert to Aid Building," *NYT*, Jan. 25, 1923, 18; "Asks New Contract Form," *NYT*, Apr. 17, 1923, 24; "Single Contract for School Buildings," *NYT*, Apr. 29, 1923, IX, 2; "Move to Rush School Work," *NYT*, June 28, 1923, 19; "Hylan Sees Propaganda," *NYT*, Dec. 3, 1927, 18; "Big Shake-up Likely in Gompert Office," *NYT*, Dec. 4, 1927, 24; "W.H. Gompert Sees Regime Vindicated," *NYT*, Feb. 2, 1928, 5.
- ²⁷ *Journal of the Board of Education*, (1923), 293-294.
- ²⁸ *NYT*, Jan. 25, 1923. Gompert designed the Pullman, Cuyler (119-123 West 31st Street), and Burrell Buildings, the Embassy Hotel, and Automobile Club of America, and was a consultant on the New York County Courthouse (1913-27, Guy Lowell), a designated New York City Landmark.

²⁹ *NYT*, Dec. 4, 1927.

³⁰ "Gompert Resigns as School Builder; His Work Under Fire," *NYT*, Dec. 3, 1927, 1, 18.

³¹ *NYT*, Dec. 3, 1927.

³² *NYT*, Feb. 2, 1928.

³³ See Stern, et al.

³⁴ Jamaica's first school had been established in the small Presbyterian church near the center of town in 1676. In 1792, a private school, Union Hall Academy was founded in Jamaica but it did not get enough support from the community to continue. In 1854 Jamaica's first public school was constructed on Herriman Avenue. It accommodated 300 students, from ages 5 to 18, with a high school department on the third floor of the building.

³⁵ "Jamaica High School," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July, 1909.

³⁶ Dates on school plans in the files of the Municipal Archives.

³⁷ "Construction of Jamaica High School Fitting Climax to Career of Principal," *Long Island Daily Press*, Mar. 24, 1933.

³⁸ *Long Island Life*, Jan., 1927, no title, in Jamaica clippings file of Long Island Division of Queensboro Public Library.

³⁹ "Chamber Wins High School Fight," *Jamaica Jinjer*, May, 1929. Before the purchase of the extra land, the school was called a "monument on a mudhole." Local residents wanted a suitably grand plaza or approach in keeping with the grand style of the school building. After two years of negotiations, the land was purchased from Magistrate Benjamin Marvin at a reduced price.

⁴⁰ "Construction..." *Long Island Daily Press*, Mar. 24, 1933.

⁴¹ *Jamaica Jinjer*, May, 1929.

⁴² *The Hilltopper*, Nov. 24, 1931

⁴³ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica_High_School_\(New_York_City\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica_High_School_(New_York_City)).

⁴⁴ "The First Fifty Years," 85.

⁴⁵ "Jamaica's New High School Building to Cost \$2,000,000," *Queensboro Chamber of Commerce*, Apr., 1925.

⁴⁶ "Jamaica Has Largest Enrollment, Topping Andrew Jackson High," 1950, in Jamaica clippings file in Long Island Division of Queens Public Library.

⁴⁷ "Jamaica High Falling Apart; Parents Demand Repairs," *Long Island Daily Press*, Jan. 14, 1956.

⁴⁸ "Jamaica High School Fix-Up Set Finally," *Long Island Daily Press*, Jul. 7, 1965.

⁴⁹ "Jamaica High School Named One of the Best," *Queens Chronicle*, Dec. 19, 1985; and "School Cashes in on Its Ethnic Diversity Project," *Newsday*, May 7, 1985.

⁵⁰ <http://insideschools.org/index12.php?fs=1184&str=jamaica%20high%20school&formtype=name>.

⁵¹ The gymnasias have metal-framed windows with some fixed panes and some awnings.

⁵² The roof is copper and the sides are formed of sheet metal that appears to be copper.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that Jamaica High School has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

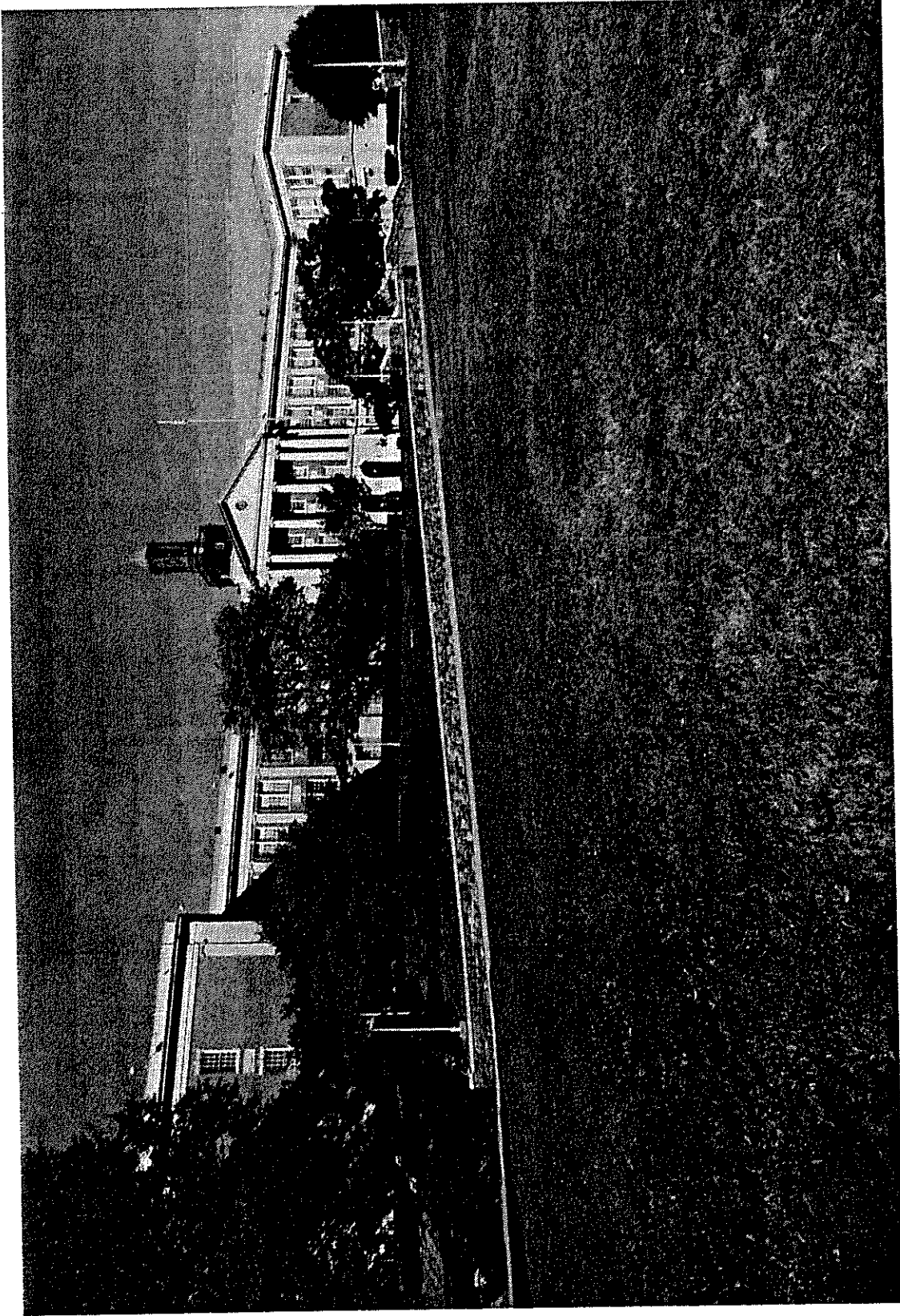
The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, Jamaica High School was designed in 1925 by then Superintendent of School Buildings William Gompert; that Gompert was the first successor to C.B.J. Snyder who had served in this position for more than 25 years and designed countless new schools for New York after Consolidation; that Gompert was well-trained and experienced in directing large building projects such as the work of the New York City School Board; that a similarly acute shortage of school buildings faced Gompert due to a substantial increase in the number of immigrants coming to the city; that Gompert designed many new schools, especially in the outer boroughs to deal with the expansion of population; that Jamaica High School opened in 1927 to house 3,111 students, many of whom had moved with their families into the district because of the many new houses and apartments that were being constructed in this area; that the building provided the latest in facilities such as laboratories, home economics rooms, and athletic fields; that it was constructed in the Georgian Revival style, seen as a way to help Americanize its many immigrant children; that the Georgian Revival style is manifest in the symmetrical arrangement of the building with its wings, and the use of contrasting brick and light-colored stone and terra-cotta trim; that this large building sits on an equally large, finely-landscaped lot which was quite unusual for a city school; that its fine materials, including copper roof, bronze doors, brick, granite and limestone used on a classically-oriented design create a distinctive building that both anchors and serves as a centerpiece for this busy neighborhood that has continued to welcome new Americans from many lands.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark Jamaica High School, 167-01 Gothic Drive, Jamaica, Queens, and designates as its Landmark Site Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 9858, Lot 100, in part consisting of that portion of the lot south of the masonry wall that is fifteen feet north of the central wing of the school and that extends along the southern line of lot 87 across lot 100 to the point where it meets 168th Street.

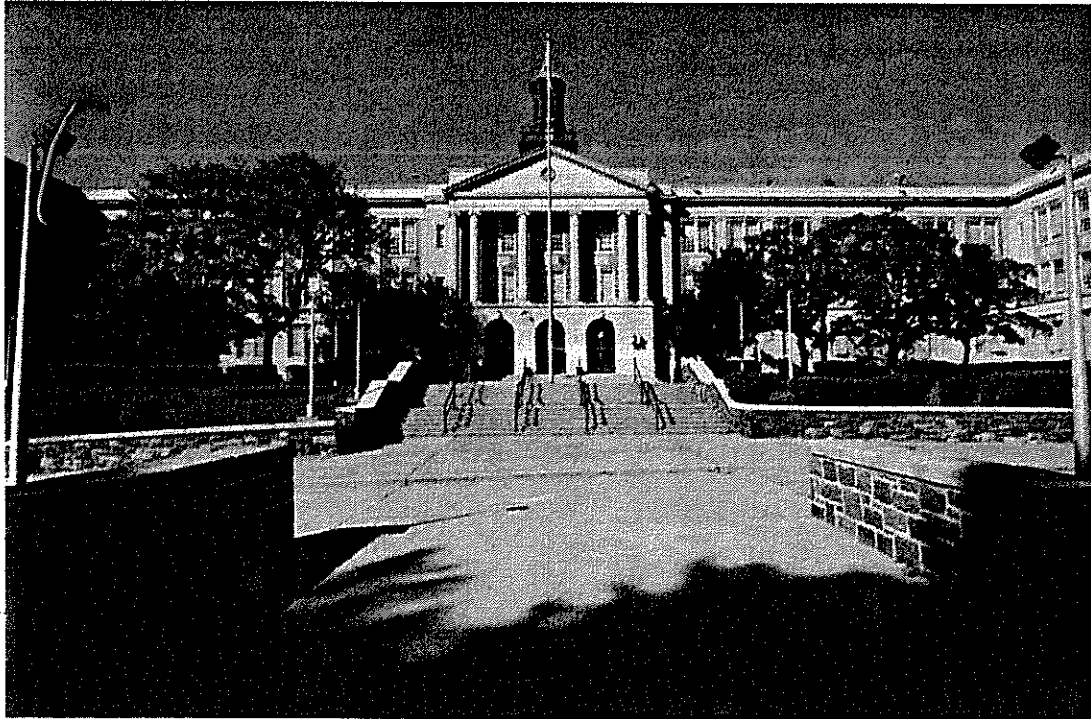
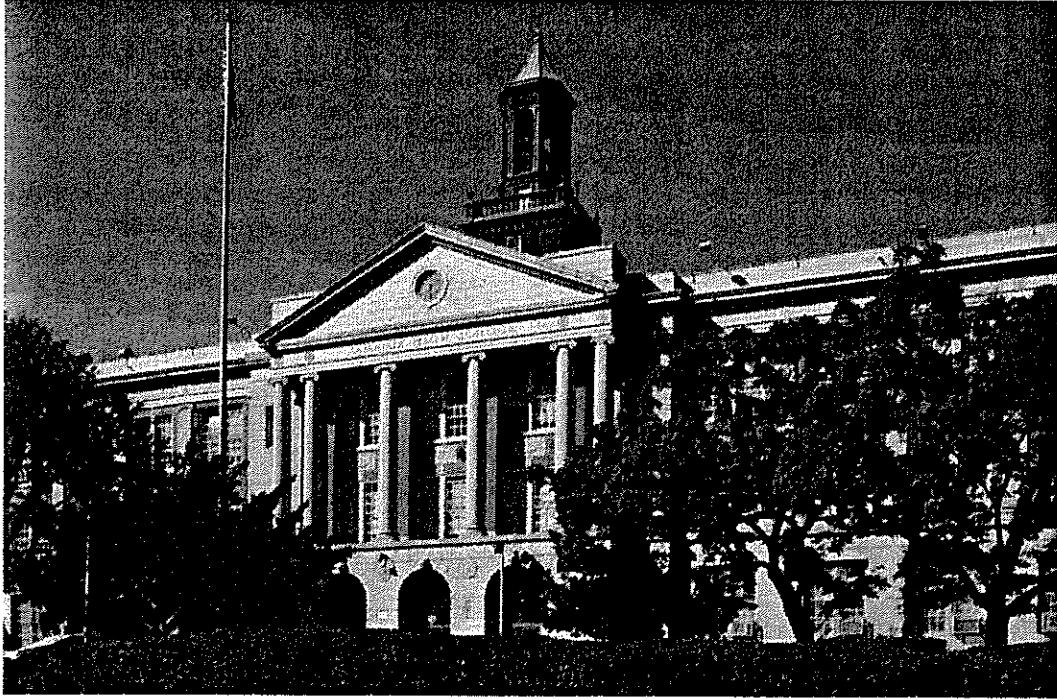
Robert B. Tierney, Chair

Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice-Chair

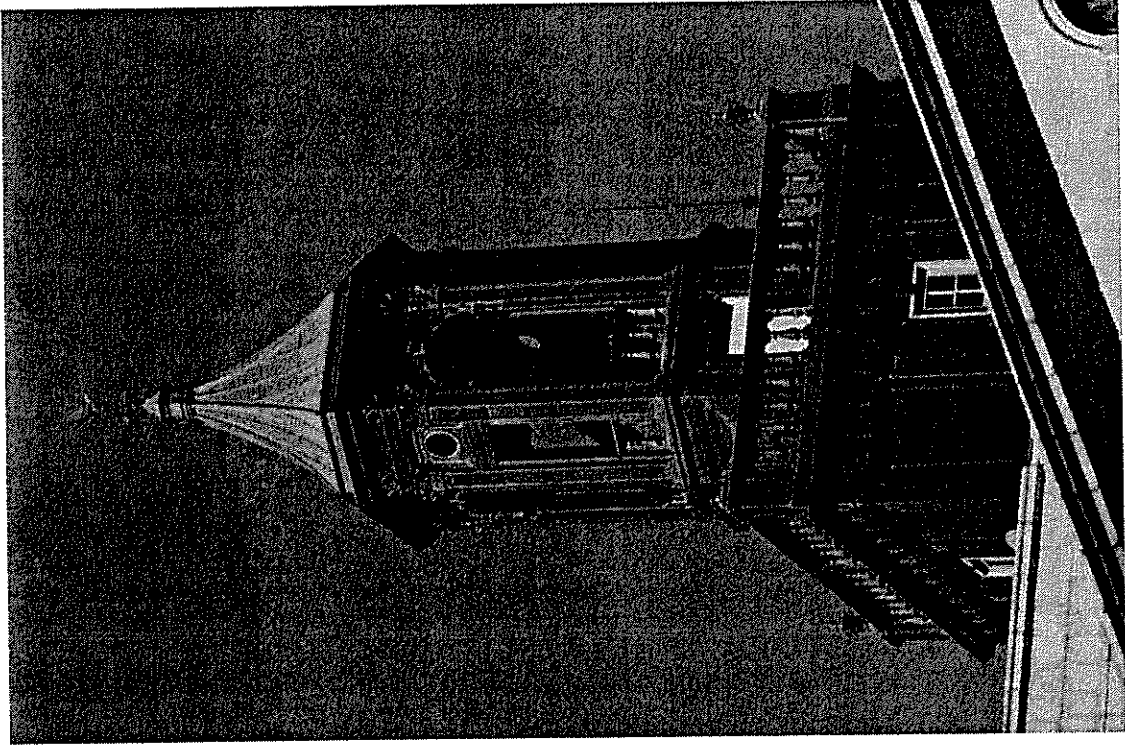
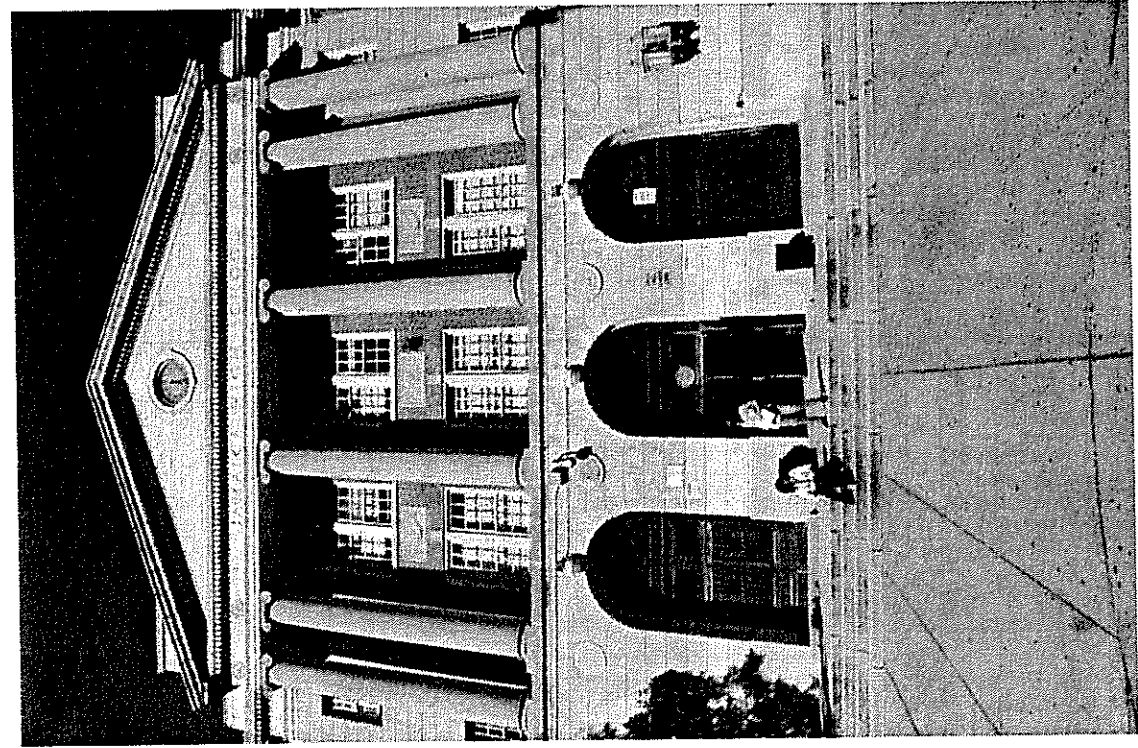
Frederick Bland, Stephen Byrns, Diana Chapin, Christopher Moore, Commissioners



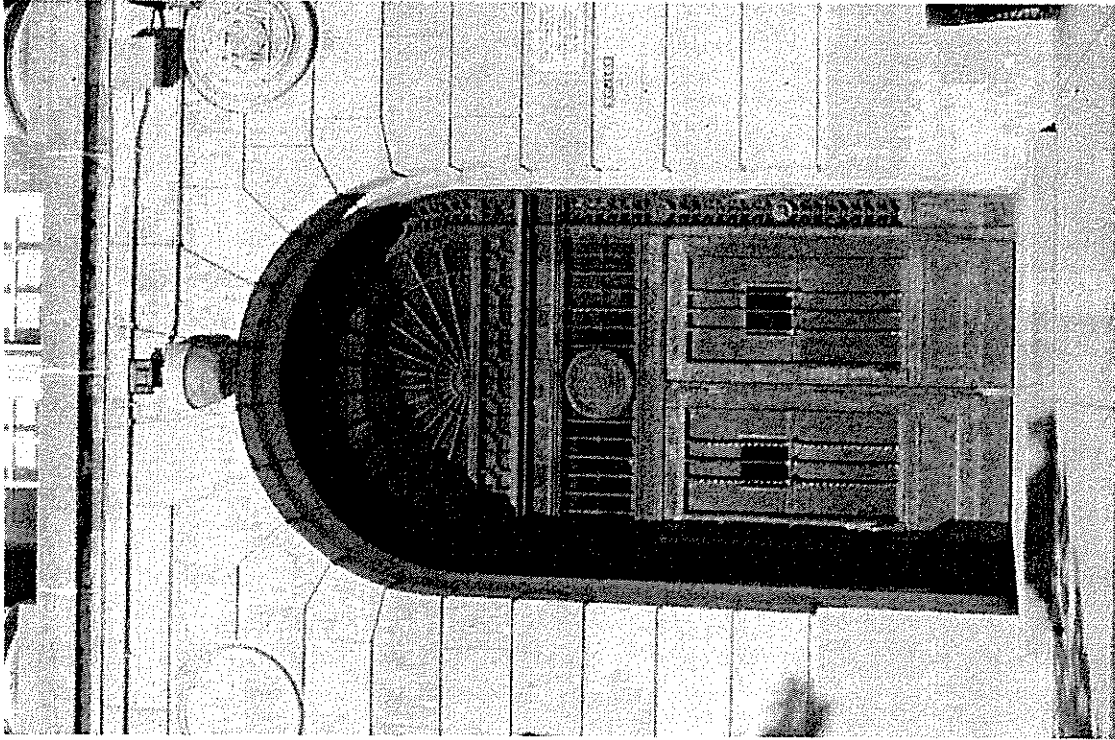
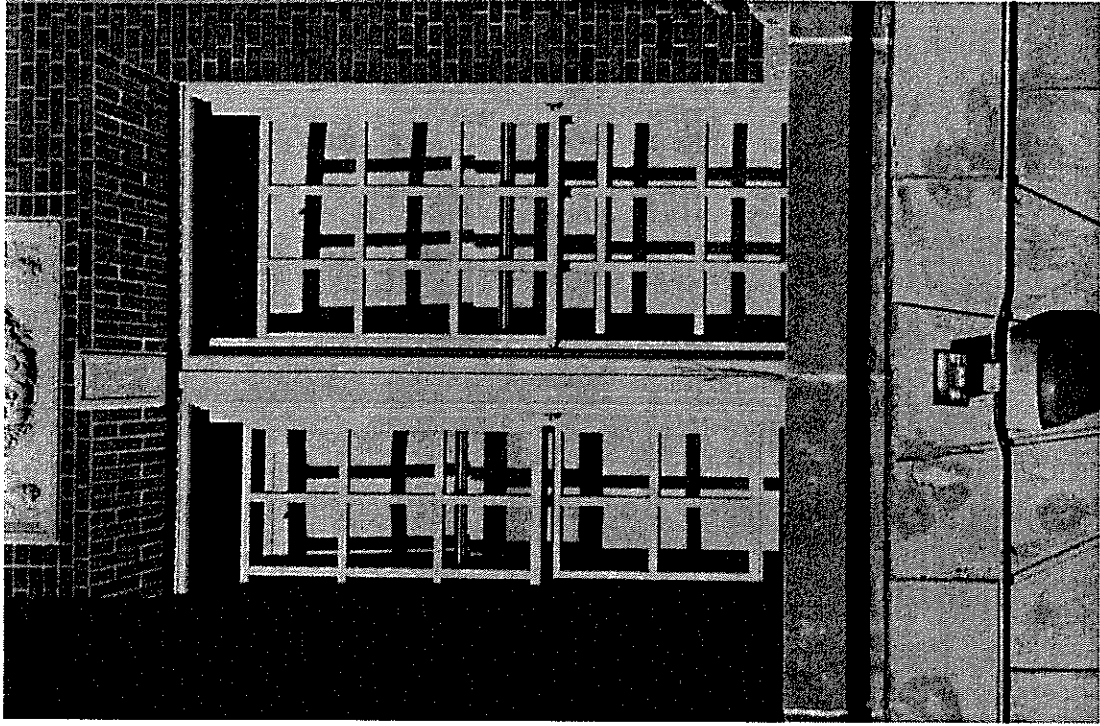
Jamaica High School
167-01 Gothic Drive
Jamaica, Queens
Photo: Christopher Brazee, 2008



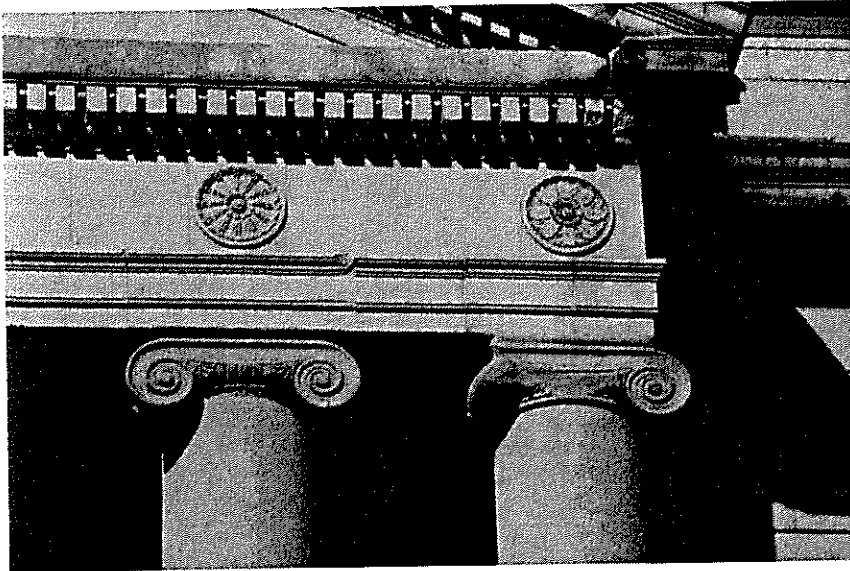
Jamaica High School
Front façade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



Jamaica High School
Front pavilion and cupola
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008

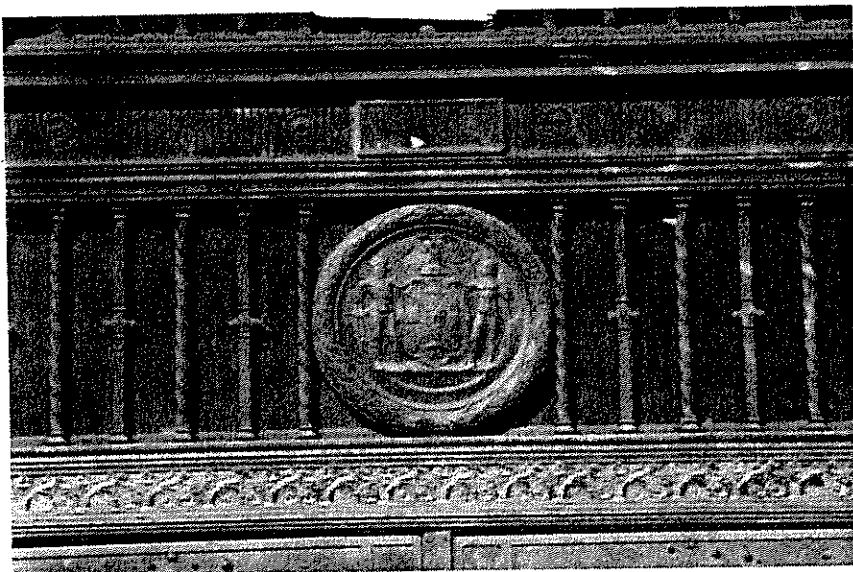


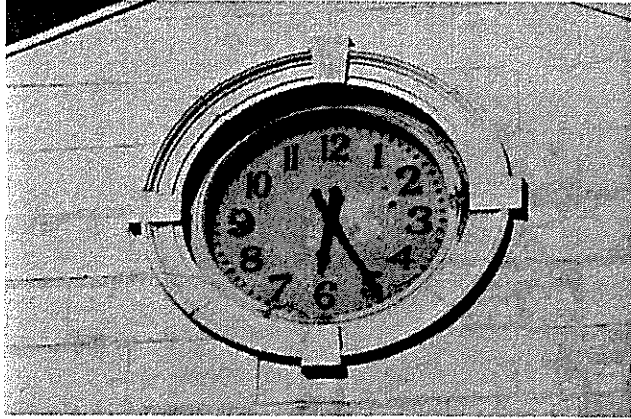
Jamaica High School
Front door and window details
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



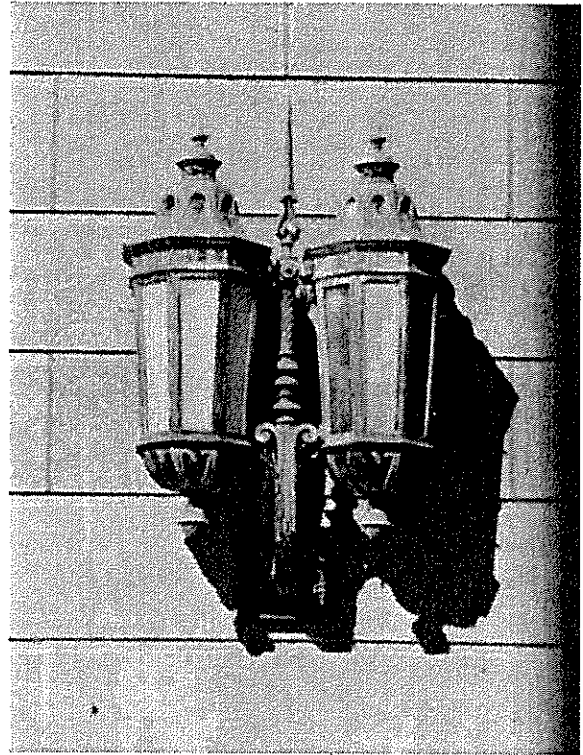
Jamaica High School
Façade details:
Capitals and cornice detail
Spandrel panel
City seal over door

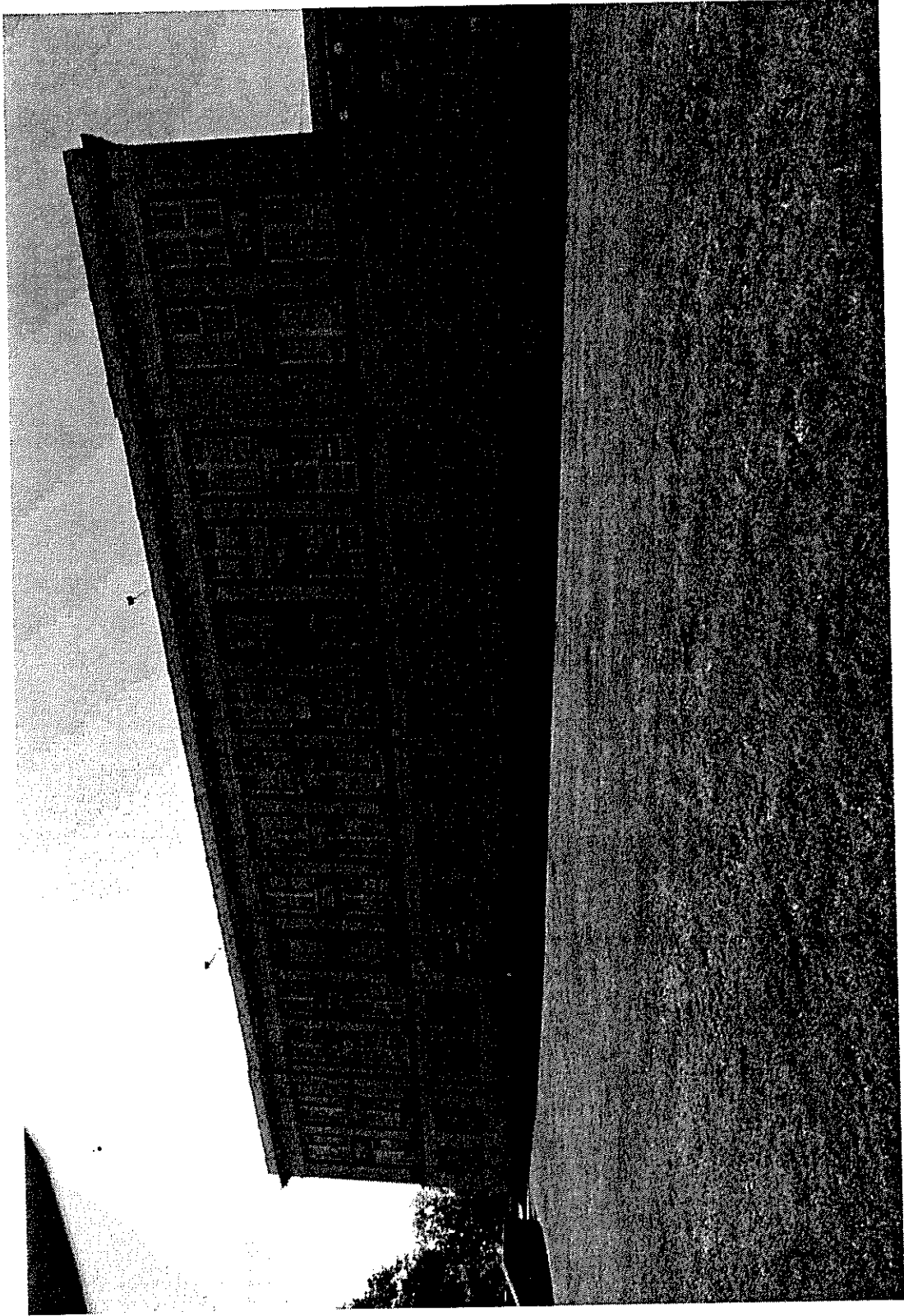
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



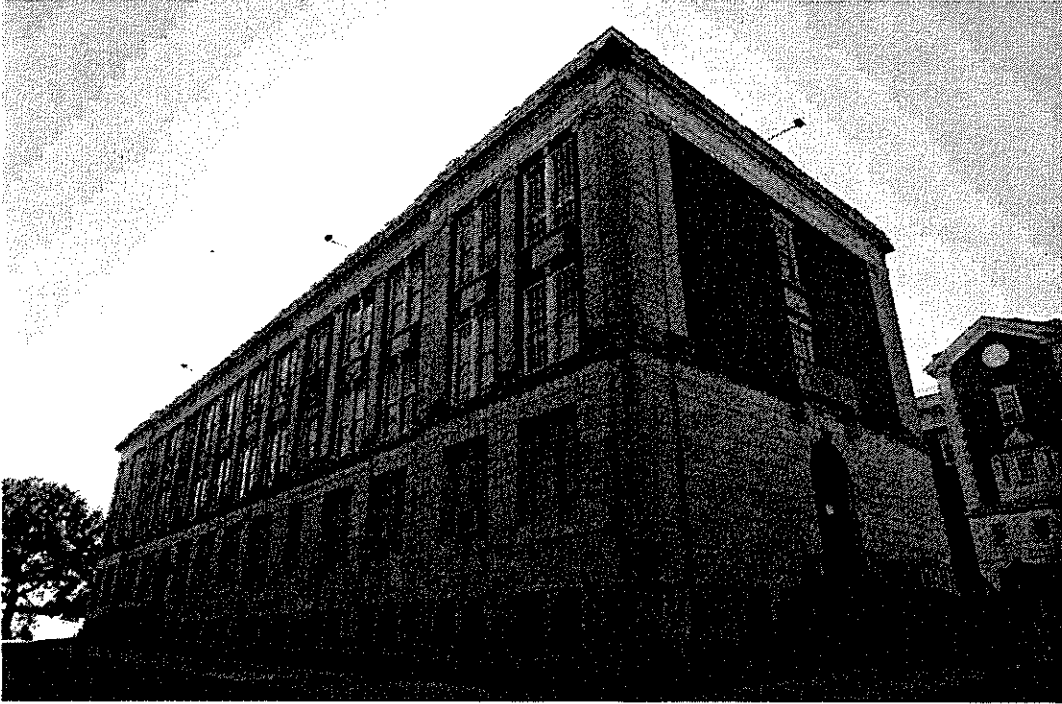


Jamaica High School
Façade detail
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



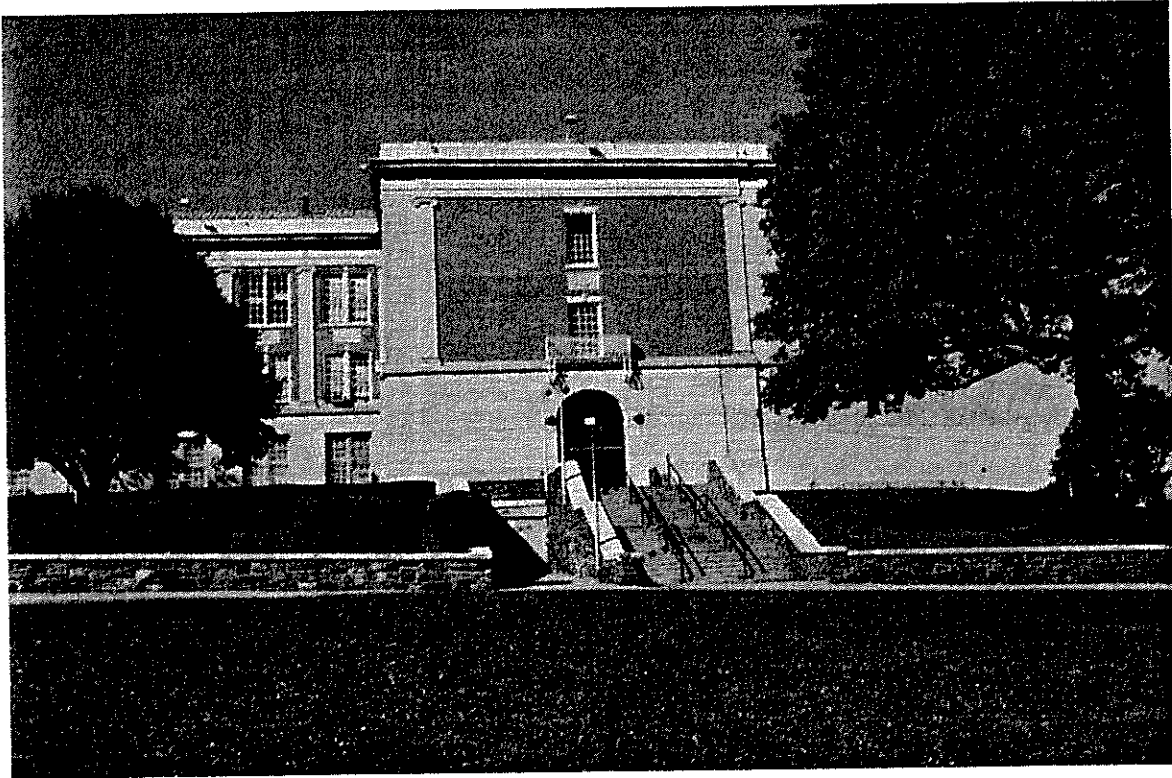


Jamaica High School
East wing, east façade
Photo: Christopher Brazee, 2008

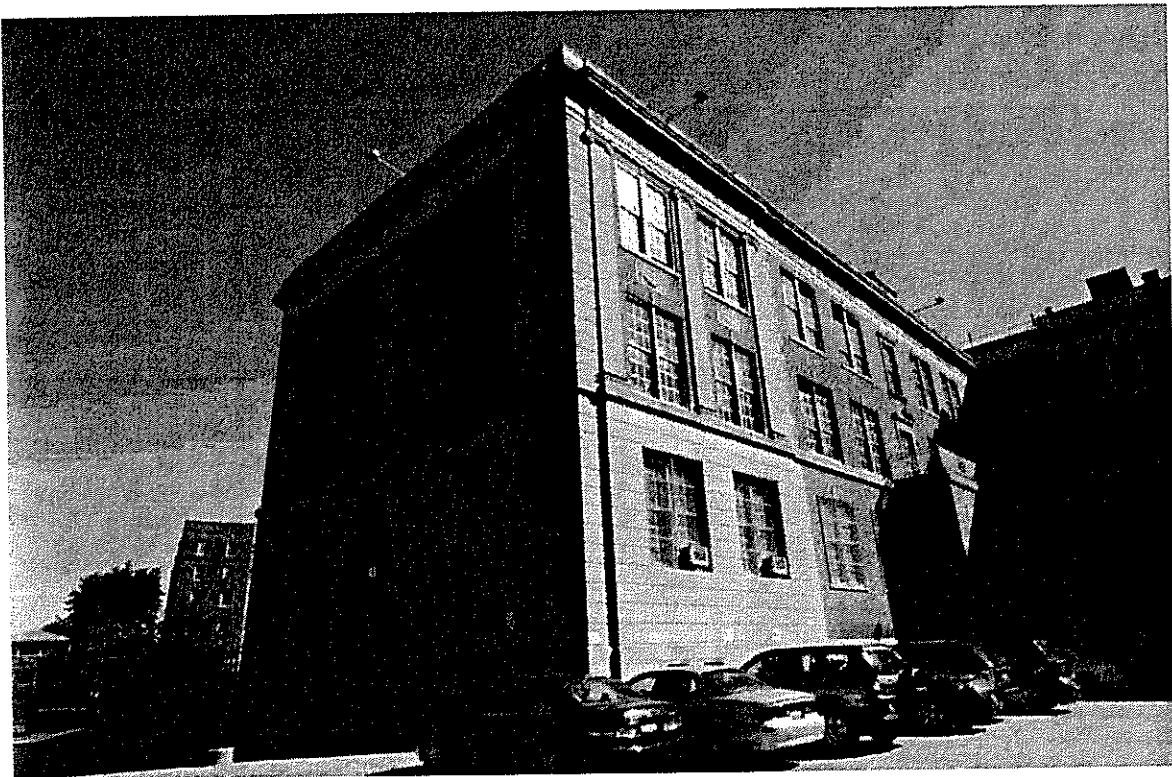


Jamaica High School
East wing
Photos: Christopher Brazee. 2008



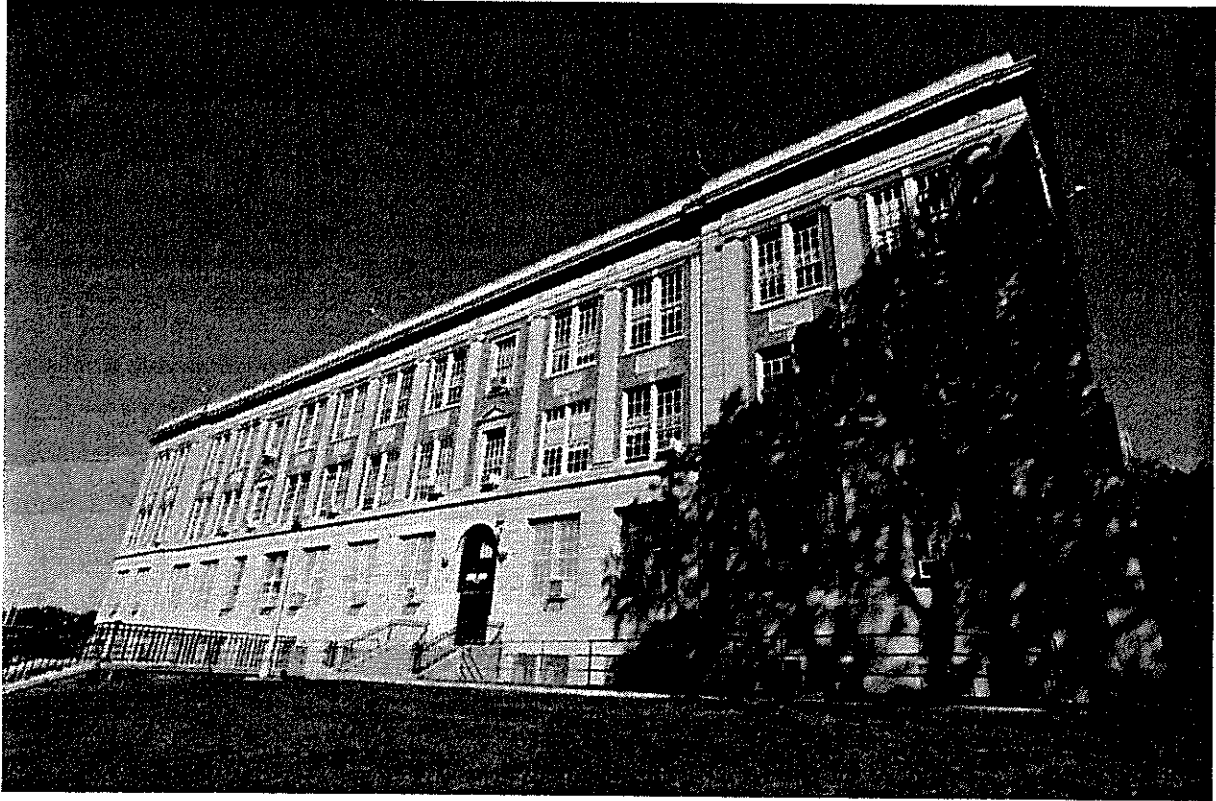


Front (south façade) of east wing

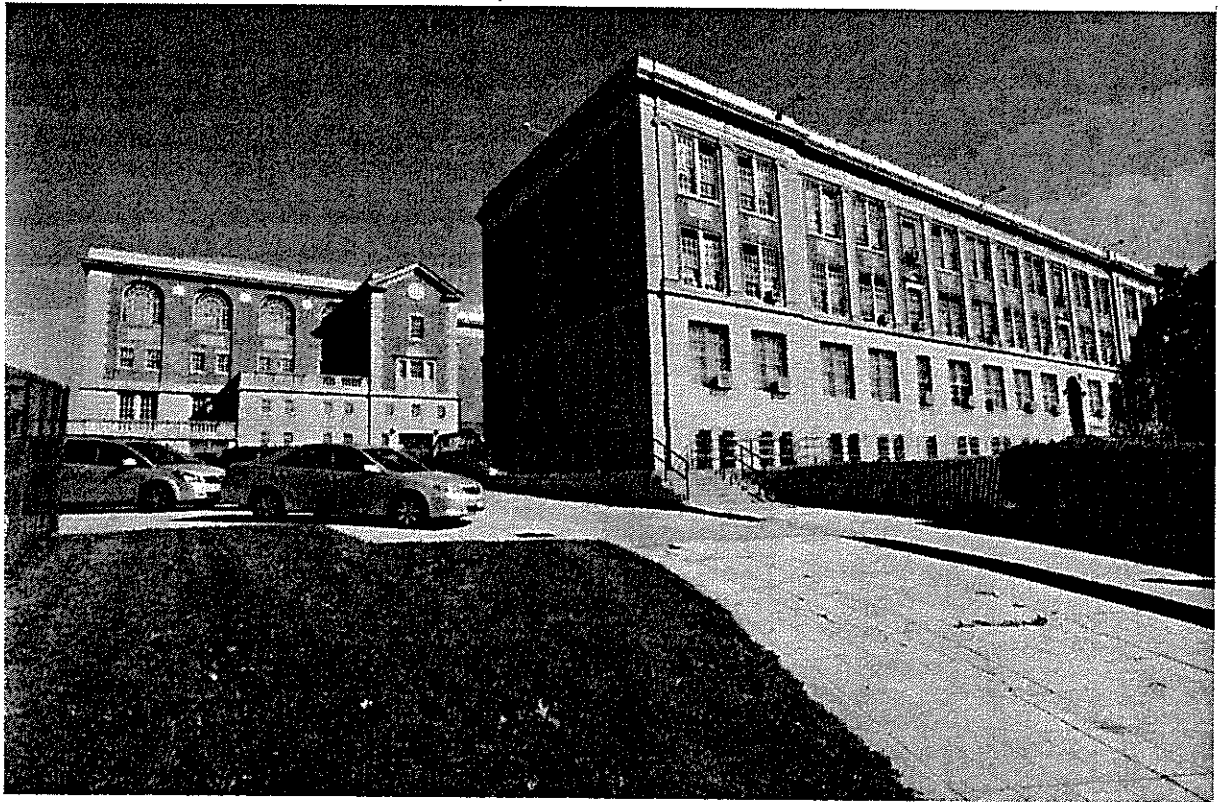


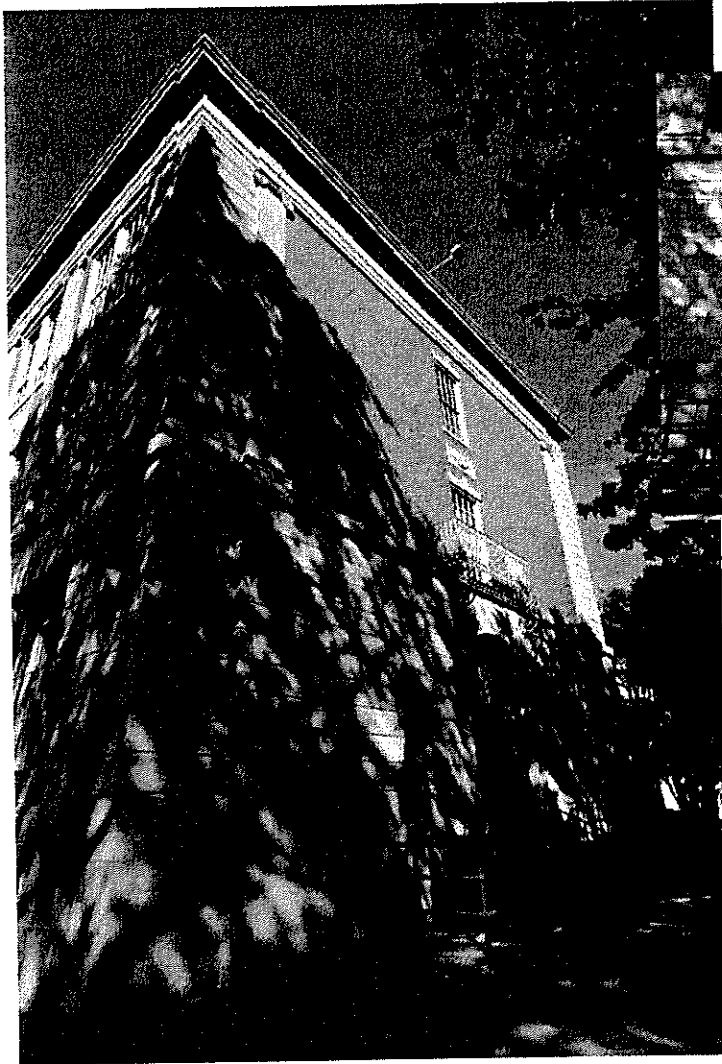
Rear (north façade) of east wing

Jamaica High School
East wing
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



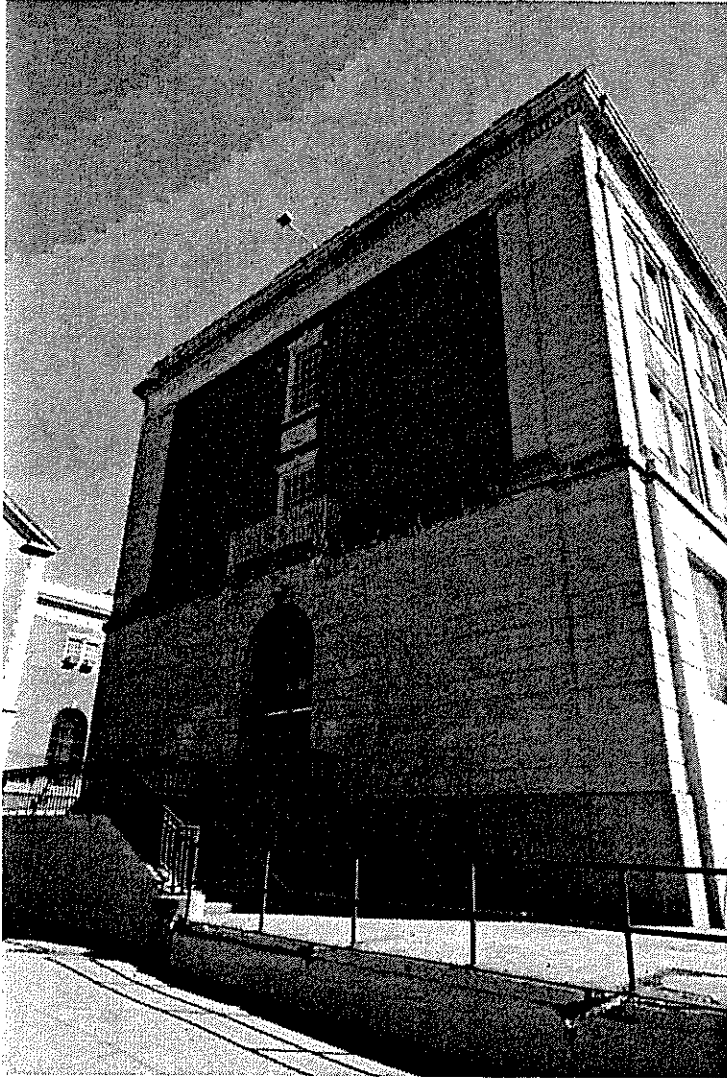
Jamaica High School
West wing, west facade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



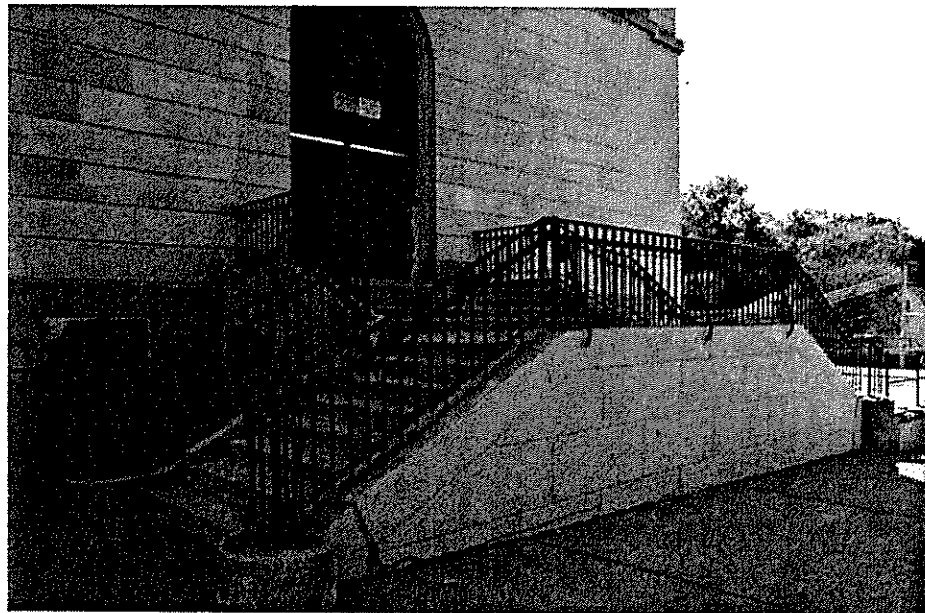


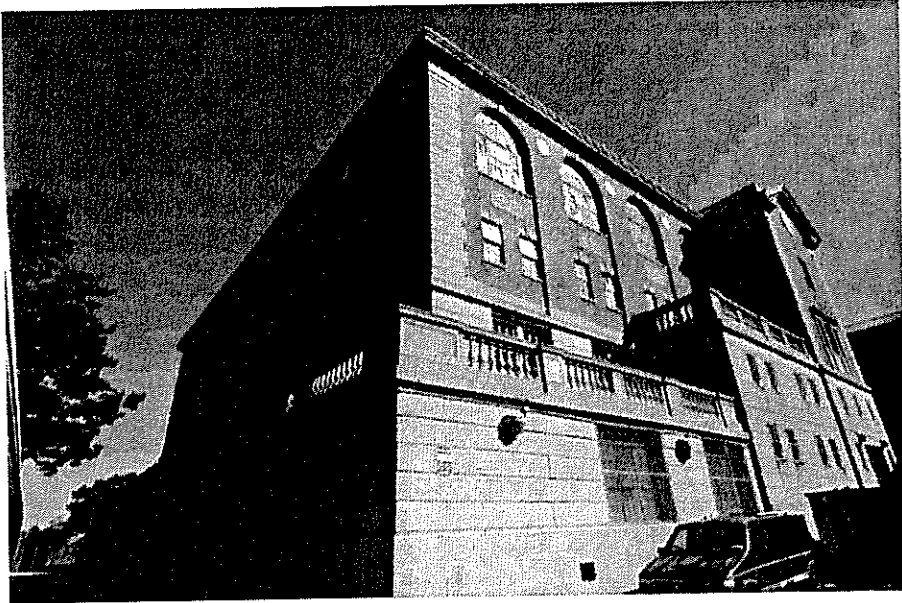
Jamaica High School
West wing, south façade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008





Jamaica High School
West wing, north façade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



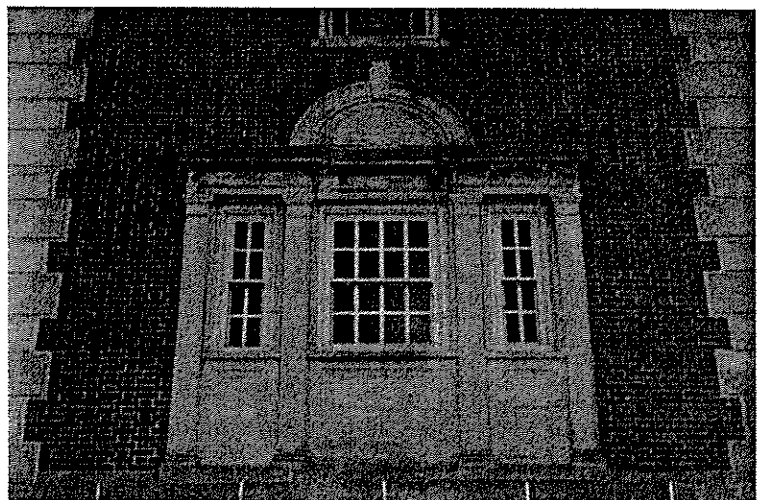


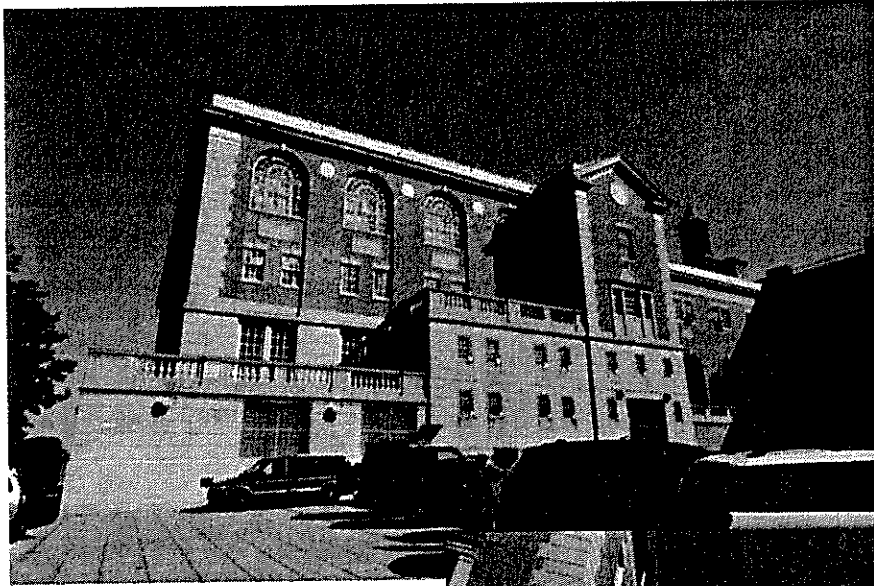
Jamaica High School
Center rear wing, north façade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008



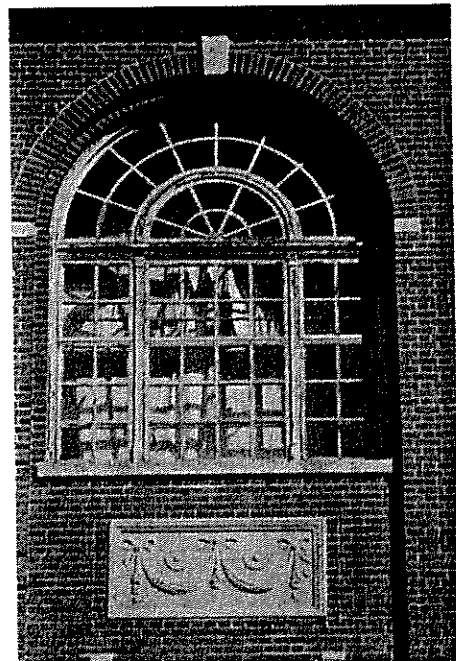
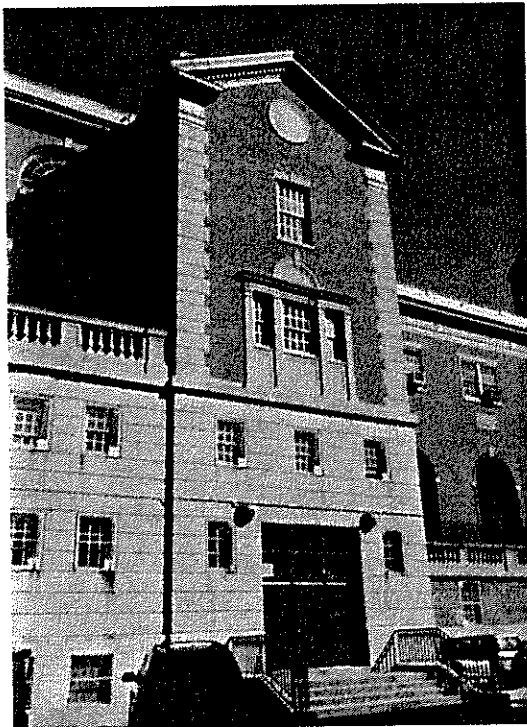
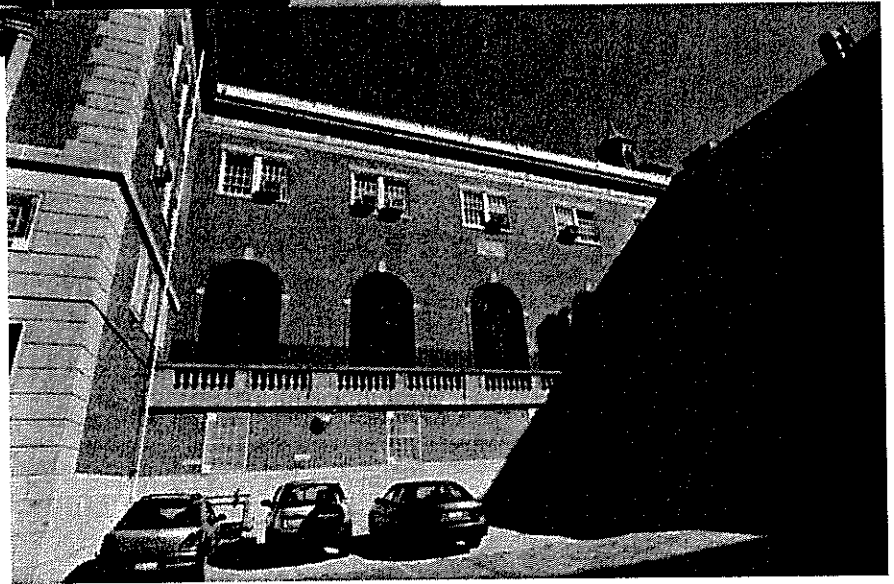


Jamaica High School
Central rear wing, east façade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008





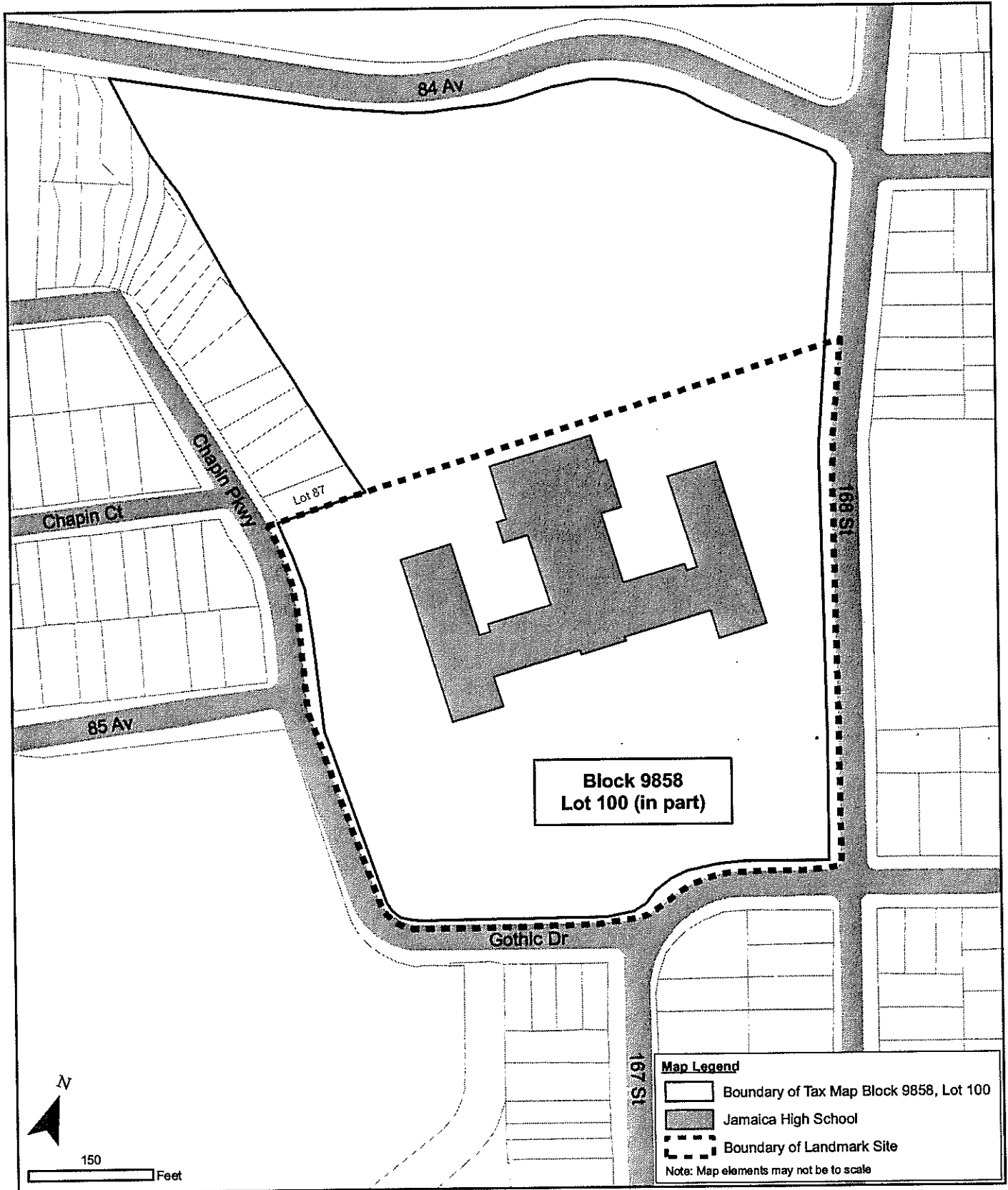
Jamaica High School
Center rear wing, west façade
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008





Jamaica High School
Rear façade of central block
Photos: Christopher Brazee, 2008





JAMAICA HIGH SCHOOL (LP-2316), 167-01 Gothic Drive.

Landmark Site: Borough of Queens, Tax Map Block 9858, Lot 100 in part, consisting of that portion of the lot south of the masonry wall that is 15 feet north of the central wing of the school and that extends along the southern line of Lot 87 across Lot 100 to the point where it meets 168th Street.

Designated: March 24, 2009



EVAN THIES

democrat for city council

Testimony to the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, and Maritime Uses

June 23, 2009

The School Construction Authority (SCA) recently held a hearing at PS 133 on their proposed replacement construction—unfortunately, many of those concerned about the project could not attend. Held at 4 PM on a weekday, the hearing was representative of a process that has shut out community input.

Neighbors of the school are concerned, and rightfully so, about the environmental impact that the demolition of a school built in 1900 might have on their community. The SCA has called for excavated soil from the construction to be disposed of as hazardous material in their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), acknowledging the possibility that hazardous material may be present. As a result, it is necessary for the SCA to work with residents of the community and share the steps they will be taking to ensure a safe construction and demolition process.

The SCA released its DEIS on April 24. On May 14, a hearing on their statement was held at PS 133. Clearly, the process for community involvement has been rushed. Residents were given less than a month to prepare for this hearing and were told by the SCA that the replacement process would start as early as this summer.

I sat in the audience at that hearing and listened to residents and parents ask questions of the SCA, all of which went unanswered. The questions that were raised by the community regarding environmental impact, quality of life, and landmark preservation were the kinds of questions that must be addressed before school construction begins. These concerns were briefly touched upon in the DEIS but SCA officials were unwilling to address them at the hearing.

The School Construction Authority must engage parents and neighbors, and address their concerns before any construction moves forward. A decision to knock down a school, possibly endanger local residents, and rid a neighborhood of a community garden should not be made lightly. It should also not be made in backrooms, away from public scrutiny. Any decision that the SCA proposes should come only after a thorough and transparent process has taken place.

I urge the members of this subcommittee to seriously consider and address the lack of a public process that has taken place so far. The effect that the SCA's plan will have on the neighborhood is too significant for a decision to be made without the surrounding community having a say.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EThies'.

Evan Thies

Evan Thies for City Council – 234 N. 12th St., Apt. 1F – info@evanthies.com



WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION



James M. Cervino MS, PhD.
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jcervino@whoi.edu or jcervino@pace.edu
917-620-5287

Testimony For Community Group Located at PS:133

I am a faculty scientist/professor at Pace University in NYC. My research at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute focuses on the links between global warming and disease.

The School Construction Authorities plan towards toxic soil remediation at this particular location shows a complete disregard towards environmental and human health.

My comments are based on factual scientific evidence and not on grey literature sources. The hazardous chemical contamination that will remain on site can pose a serious threat to human health. Effects on human health are supported by the Journal Cancer Research, Journal of Toxicology, Journal of Experimental Marine Biology & Ecology, Marine Pollution Bulliten, EPA Guidelines, and the Journal of Environmental Health etc.

Biological Concerns

The concentrations of S-VOCs and VOCs that the plan indicates to leave in the under the concrete, if leaked due to migrating towards the surface can cause genetic malfunctions that lead to cancer and other non-cancerous cellular deformities. **Lab Analysis**

What I do is; subject my cell-lines (in vitro) to concentrations 1000 times less that what they are leaving in the soil. My results are lethal and serious cellular malfunctions. These compounds are linked to kidney failure and other organ disorders, and most seriously brain and nervous system disorders. The SVOCs found are linked to cancer, due to their DNA binding abilities. The SVOCs inhibit DNA replication, which leads to mutations that can cause tumors and cancer. See: *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention* Vol. 8, 561-565, June 1999. Seasonal Effect on Airborne Pyrene, Urinary 1-

Hydroxypyrene, and Benzo(a) pyrene Diol Epoxide-Hemoglobin Adducts in the General Population.

Concerns Related to Engineering

If water pipes leaks or the water table breaches its levels and mixes with this soil beneath the area “hot-spots” the chemicals will migrate towards the surface. The rudimentary method of placing a plastic sheeting (sub slab depressure barrier) and a ventilation pipe will NOT GET RID OF THE TOXINS, it will just be allowing them to continuously pass through each location where levels of contamination are to be left in the soil. This is not mitigation, restoration or attacking a serious problem where it exists; the method should be titled shuffling or by-passing dangerous compounds from a high concentration to an area of low concentration. What I see is simple reverse osmosis: ie. molecules from an area of high concentration (VOC plume under the school) to an area of lower concentration (through a pipe outside). Question: Will the SCA engineers guarantee in a written document that there will be ZERO concentrations of VOCs and SVOCs from migrating into the schools?

Conclusions

What we need to do is have the SCA conform to the Brownfield agreement that the State DEC has laid out for these types of locations that revel chemical above the RCRA levels.

Special Invite to the SCA to discuss the scientific issues associated with current remediation methodology, biological concerns, chemical toxicology and environmental controls.

Location: Pace University Law School Department of Biology & Environmental Science Climate Change Program.

Hosts: Department of Biological Sciences, Graduate Department of Environmental Science, Department of Chemistry.



New York Lawyers

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**Testimony of
DAWN PHILIP
on behalf of
NEW YORK LAWYERS FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST
before the
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
Hearing on
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime
June 23, 2009**

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Dawn Philip, and I am a staff attorney with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI). NYLPI is a nonprofit civil rights law firm formed in 1976 to address the unmet legal needs of New Yorkers. In 1991, NYLPI formed its Environmental Justice & Community Development Project to represent communities facing disproportionate environmental burdens. I represent community groups concerned about local schools on contaminated properties within New York City.

As some of you know, I have testified on this issue here several times now and today, unfortunately, I am here to once again talk about the School Construction Authority's lack of public accountability. As I work with community organizations, parents, and residents concerned with the siting of schools on contaminated sites, some common themes emerge—a lack of transparency by the SCA and DOE and an unwillingness to meaningfully engage with community members and parents about legitimate health and safety issues. Siting schools on contaminated properties is a serious issue and one that warrants serious attention from the SCA and the DOE. We cannot expect children to learn and play in environments that are toxic.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for P.S. 133 states: "Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) were detected at concentrations exceeding their respective New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Air Guidance Values (AGVs). These compounds are migrating onto the site from an off-site source based on contaminant distribution." On the following page it says, "A sub-slab depressurization system and a vapor barrier would be made part of the new school construction to prevent the potential migration of organic vapors, if any, into the proposed school building."

According to an independent consultant that has reviewed hundreds of site

remediation and clean up plans and has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, such a depressurization system is a necessary, but insufficient remedy. Similar to what happened at the Mott Haven Campus (South Bronx) and Info Tech High School (Long Island City), the discovery of contaminants such lead, mercury, and volatile organic compound plumes (such as TCE or PCE) under a school site should trigger a full environmental review with an opportunity for the public to comment on the cleanup and site management plans. This should be done before construction, both to protect the building's occupants (students, faculty, and staff) and because it is required by state and city law. It is state (DEC and DOH) policy that mitigation (depressurization) is not enough. Cleanup is required at such sites.

After repeatedly asking the SCA to provide information about safety plans for dealing with hazardous materials and a series of e-mails requesting public documents referenced in the DEIS—documents that will help assess the levels of contamination at the site like the Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental investigations, community members have not yet received any of the requested documents. Most recently, they were told they would have to FOIL for the documents. This school should not be approved for construction until there is a proper and full review of these documents. Our experience in Mott Haven and countless other schools has proved that a little more time and an independent review of and access to the environmental investigations is integral to best protecting the health and safety of these kids. Please do right by them. Thank you.

My name is Eric McClure. I live at 423 4th Street, in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn, and I am here representing Park Slope Neighbors, a grassroots community organization.

I'm here today hoping that the School Construction Authority will withdraw its plan to demolish PS 133 and replace it with a new, much larger, school. If the SCA won't withdraw its plan, I urge the members of this committee to reject it.

Like everyone else in this room, I support the goal of creating additional seats for schoolchildren in Districts 13 and 15, but this plan is fraught with problems.

Others have addressed, or will address, a number of these problems in their testimonies. I'm here to speak to what I believe is the most troubling aspect of the SCA's plan: that it would create two separate but equal schools within a school.

The SCA's plan would create a 300-seat replacement school for PS 133 on the site, a school whose student population would be 97% black and Hispanic, with two-thirds of the students eligible for Title 1 funding.

The plan would also create a new, larger school, serving District 15, which most likely would have a student population that would be majority white, and much more affluent.

While the SCA and the Department of Education claim that the program for the new school building isn't set, their blueprints show a school with two entrances, and the First Vice President of the District 15 Community Education Council told the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* that he was concerned about creating a "light school" and a "dark school."

Not concerned enough that he would oppose the SCA plan, however. He also told the Eagle that he emphatically supports the project, and that opponents of the plan were NIMBYs.

If it's NIMBY to oppose the creation of separate but equal schools, divided along lines of race and class, then call me NIMBY. Proudly NIMBY.

Because my backyard, my neighborhood, is no place to build two schools under one roof, one in which nearly all the students would be black or Hispanic and largely disadvantaged, and the other in which most of the students would be white and largely affluent.

Such a plan is patently not acceptable to me, nor should it be acceptable to the members of this committee, nor to anyone else in New York City.

Because separate is not equal.

The Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which struck down separate but equal schooling in 1954, found that segregation on the basis of race had a severely detrimental effect on children of color, especially when that separation carried official sanction.

You have the opportunity today to reject that sanction, and send the SCA back to the drawing board. I urge you to do that, and not turn the clock back 55 years.

Eric McClure
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Joseph Mugivan
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Port Washington, N.Y. 11050
516 883 2981
j.mugivan@att.net

“How Will We Know If Our School Is Sick?”

This statement and its accompanying materials are respectfully submitted in further support of my future oral testimony. I am an elementary teacher in PS7, District 24 in Elmhurst, Queens.

2003

During the first six weeks of the 2003 school year I became ill. I developed chronic neurological and optical symptoms requiring me to obtain an approved unpaid medical leave from my position beginning October 23, 2003. On October 30 I sent a letter to my principal indicating my concerns about a plastics factory across from my classroom and the possibility of it being related to my injuries.

Besides having concerns about my own condition, I was fearful about creating a panic for my students and their parents until the results of an air quality test could be made available. On November 4, 2003, at the direction of my principal, I visited the regional personnel manager to express my concerns about the air quality of my classroom. I was directed to return to the classroom and an air quality inspection would be ordered.

An air quality inspection for carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) was performed and the elevated carbon dioxide levels were of great concern to me despite the test being performed after a three day weekend. The recognized standards for testing by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) “require the building or zone to be occupied for a duration long enough to allow the CO₂ levels to reach a balance with the ventilation rate.”

Children breathe three times as much air as adults per body weight. Allowing the building to be free of CO₂ for 72 hours before testing was of great concern since it related to the health and safety of children.

Even with this violation of industry standards, my classroom, along with the cafeteria, exceeded the recommended CO₂ levels according to ASHRAE's formula. The administration's report was more comfortable using Federal EPA standard for adults in factories. I was expected to return to the classroom that was making me sick and the children would remain in place.

I received an approved unpaid medical leave from the medical examiner. Due to my symptoms I remained on medical leave and filed a Line of Duty Injury Report on December 2, 2003 when I concluded that my injuries were related to the air quality of my school. It was disapproved by the Local Instructional Supervisor on December 22, 2003.

Through my union I filed a grievance to the Regional Operations Center appealing the decision. No action or hearing was scheduled, moving the grievance, automatically, to the office of the chancellor. Here my grievance was postponed numerous times over a period of ten (10) months. The medical bureau was prevented from making a medical determination on my condition due to an "administrative bar".

2004

On March 11, 2004 I filed a request under the Freedom of Information Law for "any and all studies, indoor air quality, pollutants, toxic materials, water quality and the like performed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)" at my school. I also contacted the New York City Public Advocate's Office for assistance with this request. On April 15, 2004, one month later, I received a letter from DEP indicating that it had "extensive information about the subject location" and to contact a specific person there to "arrange an appointment to review the file". With a phone call it was determined that this person was not the one to contact and had no knowledge of this planned appointment. On May 4, 2004 I received a letter indicating that there was "no information relevant to my request". In the meantime, children continue to remain in class 337.

2005

Finally, on March 8, 2005 I received a hearing to challenge an administrative bar which, I later was informed, was established by the local superintendent that challenged my line of duty injury. My grievance was then heard.

Without going into the details of the delayed grievance, the chancellor's office indicates that the Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) visited the site

“examined only the plastics factory, not the grievant's classroom; the studies were not exhaustive”

The agencies did not cross the street to enter the school or my classroom 337. In the meantime children continued to remain in classroom 337.

I obtained from the New York City Finance Department records of industries that existed where this school had been built. I had conversations with a local planning board member and civic leader. My research uncovered that this elementary school was built in 1994 on the site of a New York City Water Department truck yard created in 1939. The site has been surrounded by heavy industrial sites which utilize toxic chemicals including a rubber processing company, a textile dyeing company, a printing company and a plastics company. In fact, testing on me revealed high levels of chromium, nickel and antimony.

Despite the history here, my grievance was denied and I cannot help but feel that I am being retaliated against for having raised these health issues impacting students and staff. I have gone without pay and health insurance for over two years.

On May 2, 2005 the Education Committee of the New York City Council, wrote a letter to the Department of Education requesting a full investigation regarding my concerns. No report has been generated to my knowledge. In the meantime, children continue to remain in classroom 337.

On January 5, 2006 I attended a meeting at Brooklyn Borough Hall to learn about the proposed Capital Plan for Schools and the standards for building construction. There I discovered the web site of the Department of Education and its school inspection reports.

Page 4/ "How Will We Know When Our School Is Sick"

My school had been mandated by the engineers to replace eleven (11) defective compressors in its air conditioning system in the year 2003. The need to restore this system was at highest priority level 5.

In addition, there was water infiltration in the electrical room throughout the area of the concrete slab on grade. An exterior water barrier needed to be installed at highest priority level 5.

Other issue of this school built in 1994 is the sinking wall which surrounds the school and problems with water damage from leaks in the roof. In the meantime, children continue to remain in classroom 337.

A whistleblower law would ensure that what happened to me does not happen to other teachers concerned about the health and safety of their students and colleagues.

Testimony of Patricia A. Conway, 670 Warren Street, Brooklyn, NY
Re: SCA proposal to demolish PS 133 and build a larger replacement school
June 23, 2009

Good morning. My name is Pat Conway. I live on Warren Street, between 4th and 5th Avenues, one block from the proposed site. I have been supporting accountable community development since moving to the neighborhood in 1973. I am the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Fifth Avenue Committee. I came here today to ask that this committee recommend that the School Construction Authority (SCA) withdraw its current proposal to demolish PS 133 and a mature community garden in order to make way for a new school building.

Our community has a long history of involvement in planning for ongoing development. The 3 family houses, community garden and neighborhood sized supermarket which surround PS 133 are an example of successful accountable development. There were many compromises made along the way, but planning for this construction in the early 1980's was literally a community-building experience; a good process brought a good result.

The re-zoning of the northern end of 4th Avenue in 2003 is another example of the way in which involvement of all concerned stakeholders can bring a community-building result. There was extended community consultation followed by the official, legally required review process. At the end, there was a broadly accepted plan to upzone the 4th Avenue corridor, while protecting the low-rise character of the interior blocks.

The proposal before you today was conceived and designed without full community consultation. It does not conform to the zoning regulations which were so carefully crafted for the area. It does not include a true cost benefit analysis comparing the cost of modernizing and expanding the historic PS 133 with demolition of the 108 year old structure and constructing a new facility. It does not properly plan for the health and safety of the students and faculty of the current school, or the planned new school. In general it raises more questions than it answers.

I urge the committee to direct the SCA to return to the community for the kind of detailed consultation which could result in a school plan for Baltic and Butler Streets that would provide a first class, modern facility for the students of our area while addressing the concerns raised during the short time that we have had to react to the current proposal.

**Testimony from Paul Sweet, Ornithologist,
Baltic St Resident, and Community Garden Member**

The Baltic St. Garden has been a wildlife haven for 30 years. Numerous resident bird species breed or feed in the garden, including Mourning Doves, Northern Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays and Cardinals. In addition to the native species, during migration it is a stop over for many migratory species of warblers, thrushes and vireos. I have recorded 75 species in the 12 years that I have been a member of the garden. The flowers and shrubs also attract many beneficial insects particularly butterflies including Monarchs, Tiger Swallowtails and Painted Ladies.

I urge the council to reject the current SCA proposal so that an alternate plan can be developed—one that preserves the garden just as it is, renovates PS 133, builds an appropriately sized school addition to increase seats, and does all of this with community input.

Thank you,

Paul Sweet

sweet@amnh.org
Cell 718 757 5941



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel (212) 614-9107 fax (212) 614-9127 email hdc@hdc.org

Statement of the Historic Districts Council

Before the City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses

Regarding the School Construction Authority's Proposal to demolish PS I33 & build a new educational facility


June 23, 2009

The Historic Districts Council is the citywide advocate for New York's historic neighborhoods. Often, we appear before the City Council in support of a landmark designation, but historic preservation does not begin and end with landmark designation. There are buildings and neighborhoods which merit preservation which have not achieved the rare status of official landmarks whose continued existence is meaningful and perhaps even necessary to the greater understanding of our city, and whose loss would be a savage blow. Public School I33 is one of those places.


Designed by master school architect CBJ Snyder in 1901, this is probably the oldest Snyder school left in Brooklyn. Its strong Colligate Gothic design with Flemish Renaissance elements is reminiscent of contemporaneous universities such as the University of Chicago, West Point and the University of Pennsylvania. The Snyder schools are part of a remarkable civic legacy - they were designed in innovative ways to allow light & air into classrooms for the health of schoolchildren (in this case, the "I" plan), they were built with facilities such as gymnasiums and auditoriums to allow for community gathering spaces and generally they had extraordinary traffic planning which allow for the sensible movement of students through the building. They also were designed architecturally to create a sense of civic pride in the community and a sense of dignity and solidity to the students - many of whom came from poor and under-privileged backgrounds and often lived in sub-standard living conditions. These buildings were a way of demonstrating to the children and parents of the working class that they were entitled to the very same educational benefits as the wealthy and that their schools were not "lesser" just because they were free and public. In fact, the buildings were often grander than private schools; compare this building to some of the Berkley-Carroll buildings. It was not for nothing that Jacob Riis called them "palaces for the people" and dubbed Snyder "the man who builds our beautiful schools."

The resonance of this school as a community anchor is further exemplified by the new development around it. Thirty years ago, after this area was literally desolated and decimated in 1970 for a school expansion which never materialized, a row of houses was built by the Fifth Avenue Committee to bring life back into this neighborhood. The houses were designed to be affordable for first-time homebuyers and working families, and they took as their design inspiration from PS I33, the area's towering landmark. Together, these homes and the school formed a core which helped stabilize and revitalize an area which had long been in decline. To remove PS I33 would literally cut the heart out of this community.

In addition to wishing to preserve PS I33 for its architectural and cultural significance, the Historic Districts Council has grave concerns about how the School Construction Authority behaved in moving this proposal forward and its plans for proceeding should this proposal be approved. First and foremost, we feel that the SCA has not been forthcoming with the neighbors about the environmental conditions on the site. This is clearly



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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a public health issue and one that must be addressed in a forthright, transparent manner. That the authority is trying to rush things along and refused to release important data about contaminants is particularly egregious considering that the agency is currently having legal action taken against it in a very similar case in The Bronx.

Other issues of lack of community outreach have also been brought to our attention. Parents in District I3 have been quoted as feeling not part of the process, which is troubling because the building is in District I3. There have been few public hearings and the local Community Board has had to scramble to weigh on this important issue. There is no perceptible difference between the Draft Environmental Statement and the Final one, there are questions about whether the SCA provided all the necessary information to the State Historic Preservation Office etc. etc. All in all, one gets the impression from SCA that they are in a mad rush to break ground on the site regardless of any consequences, even public safety ones. While their enthusiasm for providing new school seats should be applauded, caution and safety, not to mention community consensus, must be heeded, especially since the future beneficiaries of the new facility are not the people who are going to be most affected by its construction.

HDC believes strongly that a new facility can be built on this site to provide needed school seats, either as an addition to the original historic building or as a complement to it. We believe that historic PS I33 can be retained and upgraded, to better serve school children while retaining its important and distinctive historic design. And we insist that the SCA openly discusses its plans for environmental mitigation with community stakeholders. All these things have been done elsewhere in the City by the agency, and HDC finds no plausible reason why they shouldn't be done here.

I'm Dr. Jean Arrington, CUNY professor, here to speak on behalf of history and architecture.

On March 9, 1903, the *New York Times* reported that 10-year-old Eddie Luck, frequently in trouble for talking during study hours and for smoking cigarettes, deliberately set fire to PS 133. Several teachers organized a bucket brigade and extinguished the blaze. The 1500 pupils thought it was just a fire drill.

In 1926 the *Times* reported that the Freethinkers Society of New York objected because Miss Mary Garahan, a PS 133 teacher of 43 years, had urged one of her students, Mary Hallahan, 7, to attend parochial school to be taught her catechism.

In 1934 Philip Carius, a 32-yr-old patrolman guarding the PS 133 crossing at Dean St and 3rd Ave, was shot in the chest by two men who'd just robbed a grocery store. After drawing his pistol, fear that he might hit a child had caused him to put it back in its holster.

At the Board of Education's 2nd annual city-wide pushmobile derby in 1939, with 200 entries, first prize for the best-looking, best-constructed pushmobile went to James Hilgenfeldt, 11, of PS 133.

This building has too rich a human history to be hastily demolished, reinforced by the fact that it's the oldest Brooklyn school by the renowned architect, Charles B. J. Snyder. Yale University's architectural historian Robert Stern has called Snyder's schools "everyday masterpieces," "among the great glories of our city." PS 133 is unique and imposing. It beautifies 4th Avenue.

The School Construction Authority has spectacularly renovated many Snyder schools and maintains them as state-of-the-art facilities. That can happen with PS 133. We all know the greenest building is the one already built.

One reason for Snyder's amazing achievement was his willingness not to impose his way but to respond to the input of teachers and principals. Please ask the SCA to follow Snyder's lead, to withdraw its proposal and develop another in conjunction with the community for which this school is the touchstone.

Jean Arrington
450 West 147 St, Apt 54
New York, New York 10031
212-569-1519

Omitted:

In September 1935 the *Times* reported on an exhibition of work done in the summer play schools to which PS 133 sent an entry called Curious Houses which included an igloo, an English country home, a Japanese lattice-paper house, a Southern log cabin, an Irish cottage, and a clay ant house of Africa.

Snyder saw his schools as neighborhood anchors, a function PS 133 has accomplished twice – in 1901 when it opened and the neighborhood was developing and again in the 1970s after urban renewal had left the blocks around it in rubble. It was the school that inspired the Fifth Avenue Committee to construct new houses.

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Marcia Murray and I live at 395 Butler Street – two houses away from PS 133. I'm here today because I don't have any place else to turn. The School Construction Authority wants to tear down PS133, which serves about 260 students, destroy the garden and build a new very large building that will serve about the same number of students from District 13, plus 500 from District 15 and approx 70 special needs students from District 75. My neighbors and I are not opposed to creating additional seats on the site; we have proposed renovating PS133 and building an annex on site that could more than double the number of seats. However we do not support the way the SCA and DOE want to rip the heart out of our neighborhood and replace it with a large box.

The school is located in District 13, the building is over 100 years old, and it is solid and stately. It is the first Snyder School built in Brooklyn and it is the kind of building that one would say, "they don't build them like that any more".

In the 70's, PS133 was the only building standing on a vacant block that had been bulldozed to the ground in a burst of "urban renewal" that, as usual, tore down poor people's houses.

In the early 80's, the Fifth Avenue Committee worked with other city agencies to create a development plan for building row houses on Baltic and Butler streets, that was called "Park Slope Village". My husband and I bought one of those homes in 1986 and with our two sons were the first family to move in on my side of the street and called it HOME.

The school affected the design of the development – our houses have slanted roofs that reflect the angles of the school. A garden was created on the school grounds that developed over 20 years into a productive, calming, great space for all residents to enjoy.

In 1986 there were no trees on the street, the lawns were covered with sod, the neighborhood sure wasn't trendy, but the school was a stately building that gave the neighborhood a kind of grace and was a symbol of what the neighborhood could, and did, become. The students who attended the school then and now are a reflection of our community, 96% of the students are Black and Hispanic. District 13 is considered to be the poorer district in Brooklyn, there were never monies allocated to renovate PS133, it made do

with routine repairs, no one paid much attention, until District 15, the richer district needed more classrooms, and had the money to build them. Suddenly, last January, we heard that there were plans to tear down PS133 and build a bigger school that would give District 13 the same number of seats and provide twice as many to District 15. The residents in the community had only two opportunities to comment on the SCA plans, with a three minute time limit, no chance for real answers and no discussions. We were left with a feeling of disconnect and an obvious lack of respect by the SCA for the issues and concerns of the community.

Other people testifying today will talk about other problems with the proposed school- the absence of any real plan to safely drop off and pick up children, the fact that during planning for the school the SCA discovered hazardous materials in the soil and ground water and are refusing to give us any detailed information about what they found, the fact that the SCA lied to us about the need to rush the school through. There is a specific aspect about this project that bothers me the most -- we have been told that there will be two very distinct schools in the building, and that there will be separate entrances for district 13 and district 15. That sort of design and the accepted belief that the racial and economic backgrounds of the children from two districts are pretty different strongly sends a message that a separate but equal school has been designed. I THOUGHT WE DID AWAY WITH THAT A LONG TIME AGO.

Perception about race and class should not influence a design or location of a school.

I respectfully ask that you insist that the SCA withdraw its current proposal so that sufficient time be given to the community to have full disclosure of the plans and an opportunity for submission of alternate designs that will ultimately save PS133 and increase seat capacity for both districts fairly and equally.

Thank you

Marcia Murray
395 Butler Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Testimony before Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses

June 23, 2009

PS 133 – Brooklyn

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is SJ Avery and I live at 392 Butler Street, down the street from PS 133. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee.

In your packet is a document called SCA/Public Review Time-line for PS 133 and it is interesting to compare it to what the SCA has represented as “community consultation”, a misleading term if ever there was one. With the SCA, “consultation” is something that is promised in the future, claimed in the past, but never experienced in the present. To find out about the beginning the SCA’s public” consultation” process (a Notice of Filing), one had to be a reader of the City Record or the Notices section in the Post - and I wasn’t. However, I did become a daily visitor to the CB6 website and the SCA website in order to find subsequent information about SCA plans. A community can only track SCA “consultative” planning steps if one person takes on the role of “internet scout.”

The SCA doesn’t say much about the first public hearing on the site – they simply note that they made a presentation. They don’t say that there was an overwhelmingly negative reaction to the presentation, or that at the meeting they promised to send an electronic version of their presentation to CB6 so it could be placed on the website, and then failed to do so. And I really don’t understand how presenting a plan, allowing 3 minute comments, and then saying “more will be revealed when the DEIS is published” can possibly be considered consultation. I also don’t understand how one can be expected to comment on a proposal if there are no hand outs or anything to review after leaving a 3 hour meeting.

Internet vigilance – not the SCA – informed us about the DEIS. We reviewed it – even downloaded the hundred and thirty some pages and after a number of community meetings, drew up a response that raised a number of questions about planning assumptions and suggested an alternative plan that included renovation of the school and building an annex to add more seats. During this process we shared ideas, agreed with some, and rejected others – we tried thinking out of the box that the SCA wants to build. That’s consultation

At the DEIS hearing, held at 4pm on May 14 (bad timing for working people) the SCA made their 45 minute presentation and we made our 3 minute responses. No discussion, no explanation of why choices were made – replies to our comments would be in the final EIS. A

community liaison was introduced and her assurances of future consultation might have been more believable if the SCA had used the Hearing as an opportunity to tell us that, only two days later, at 9am on a Saturday, they were sending their demolition contractors to the school to begin “test drilling” on the school that would last all day. The SCA can’t seem to keep from saying one thing about process and doing just the opposite.

Another example of their “consultation” - we asked for source materials cited in their discussion of hazardous conditions they found at the site. A copy of the email exchanges is in your handouts. After first indicating that they would provide the materials, they turned around (five days after their so called status update meeting – another SCA example of consultation) and told us we would have to file under the Freedom of Information Law to get them - hardly an example of a consultative process.

The SCA loves to talk about their meetings with “community gardeners” as examples of community consultation. But those meetings have only occurred because people using the garden have been told that they have to move their plant, and move them soon, or lose them. There have been no promises of practical assistance. The gardeners will speak for themselves, but they sure haven’t told homeowners that the SCA “consultations” have been of any impact, except to make them more anxious about imminent destruction of the garden.

We want to put an end to this farce. We know the neighborhood; we know the structural issues related to our homes; we know what PS 133 means to us as a community school and architectural anchor. We are willing to put up with the inconveniences of renovation and construction to increase capacity on site if the end product ensures the safety of the community – students, teachers and area residents. We want to preserve the existing PS 133 structure, the green space around it, and are not dissuaded by “out of thin air” repair estimates of \$13 million dollars – a figure never mentioned before these hearings. Help us make a school we all can be proud of – tell the SCA to withdraw its proposal so that there can be an opportunity for broad and meaningful community input. And if they won’t do that, then send a message that there are no “done deals” that make a mockery of “consultation” and vote the proposal down.

Thank you.

Building calendaring can come unexpectedly and quickly, making the building permits meaningless pieces of paper. Calendaring can be an uncertain and open-ended process. There is no legal requirement for owner notification nor is there an opportunity for an owner to testify. It is not always clear what buildings the LPC is considering for calendaring. In the case of historic districts, it is not clear at that stage which buildings the LPC thinks are style buildings and which are non-style buildings. After calendaring, it's unclear when, if ever, they will make a decision about the designation. It has also rarely been clear when the Landmarks Commission is finished looking at a property. Some buildings that had not been designated after several reviews still have gotten reviewed again. Years of preparation work and expenditures on the part of a developer can be lost in a few weeks when the LPC decides to take yet another look at a property. Lenders are put ill at ease by a building permit that can lapse just because LPC wants to look one more time at the building.

Government should use its regulatory power carefully and should not impose extra burdens that do not create sufficient benefit. There are relatively few buildings overall that have lost historic features because of a previously issued permit. This bill would impede development and renovation, delay many desirable projects and reduce construction jobs. Financing subject to this new and unexpected risk would be more difficult and costly to obtain. It's simply unfair to owners working in good faith to rescind a validly issued permit and it's hardly a recipe for lowering development costs and revitalizing our economy.

Under 542-A, The Board of Standards and Appeals would be able to grant an extension to complete the project if substantial performance and substantial expenditures have been made in furtherance of such permit. The proposed Board of Standards and Appeals process is very expensive relief from the lapsed permit. Even if the BSA grants the extension, stopping work and going through such a process can take 3 to 4 costly months, delaying a project that is underway. And the process offers no relief to those who have made substantial investments but not started construction.

In conclusion, REBNY is strongly opposed to this bill. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF THE REAL ESTATE BOARD OF NEW YORK, INC. IN OPPOSITION TO INTRO. 542-A, a bill to require the landmarks preservation commission to issue notice to the department of buildings when a property has been calendared for designation as a landmark, requiring the department of buildings to issue notice to the landmarks preservation commission when permit applications for buildings that have been calendared for designation as a landmark are received, and revoking permits previously issued by the department of buildings when a property is designated as a landmark.

June 23, 2009

The Real Estate Board of New York, Inc. is a broadly based trade association of almost 12,000 owners, developers, brokers and real estate professionals active throughout New York City. We are here today to express our opposition to Intro. 542-A which would lapse a building permit on the effective date of the landmark designation. A second change would cause permits based on professional certification to undergo a full Department of Buildings review if a building were to be calendared by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

This bill as proposed would alter longstanding policies in regard to the validity of building permits and would have a number of far-reaching negative impacts on property development in this city. These changes in established policy are not commensurate with the benefits this bill hopes to attain.

The lapse of permit provision for designated properties and the extra review of permits for calendared buildings would significantly alter the Landmarks Law and longstanding practices about the validity of permits. These practices have provided confidence to builders and lenders pursuing a project. This proposed change would undermine project development and investment throughout the city. As you know, land assemblages for development are put together over years and sometimes decades. Millions of dollars are invested in purchasing land and buildings for redevelopment. Building permits that cannot be arbitrarily revoked protect that investment and assure lenders that the project is real and proceeding. Intro. 542-A undermines the progress of projects and strips away the protection a validly issued permit provides investors. This proposed change in established practice would jeopardize financing and add an extra element of risk not present before.

Trouy Kannapell, 659 Degraw St, #2, Brooklyn, 11217

The current plan to replace P.S. 133 with a gigantic new school would destroy the heart of an effective urban renewal project in the 1980's to address urban blight. In the 1980's, private, public and governmental agencies built on the collaborative efforts of residents in the area to reclaim an abandoned two-block tract of land that had become a dumpsite and a crime haven.

Now, the city has turned its attention to a new, also very serious problem — crowded schools in a neighboring area. But are we as a city so fickle that we will destroy the solution to one urban problem to address a new one?

Why can't we protect the heart of lower Park Slope and come together again to solve the crowding problem?

The Baltic Street Community Garden at P.s. 133 is more than 30 years old. The first plots were planted by residents along Baltic and Butler in the 1970's, when the Green Guerrillas were active in Manhattan. The Baltic Street gardeners took over part of a two-block tract that had been demolished to make room for a city development that never arrived. The removed garbage and put in a garden.

In 1983 and 1984, the garden expanded and moved slightly to the west to its current site, as part of a project known as Park Slope Village. The plan was to create a home-owning community out of a blighted, lower income urban area, something like the famed Charlotte Gardens in the Bronx.

Park Slope Village had two elements at its core: the garden, and stately P.S. 133, designed by Charles B.J. Snyder, a remarkable architect whose hundreds of schools were built in all five boroughs. Many are landmarked. The new housing was designed to reflect some of the school's architectural elements, including the sharp roof lines.

Public, private and government groups joined forces to bring the project about and to strengthen the garden's infrastructure. They included: the Park Slope Civic Council, the Fifth Avenue Committee, the city Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, Green Acre, the Astor Foundation, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Horticulture Society – and Armando, of the local gang, who gave the project street cred.

The current garden, with 14 generous plots, was designed by Lee Weintraub and was intended as a permanent garden. It is the only community garden on Fourth Avenue from Atlantic to the Verrazzano.

Hundreds if not thousands of area residents have tended flowers, vines and vegetables here. They are Puerto Rican, African-American, Latino, Yemeni, Japanese, and American pale. Some live in Wyckoff Gardens, some in brownstones; some are the original buyers in Park Slope Village.

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

June 23, 2009

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PLANS FOR
A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING TO REPLACE PUBLIC SCHOOL 133 AT 375 BUTLER
STREET, BROOKLYN**

Good ~~morning~~^{afternoon} Chair Lappin and members of the City Council. I am ~~Alex Herrera~~^{Audica Goldwyn} speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is strongly opposed to a plan to demolish Public School 133 in Brooklyn. It is an excellent example of the work of C.B.J. Snyder. Snyder was the renowned architect who designed the City's schools from 1891 to 1923. The Conservancy has long had an interest in protecting his civic masterpieces, which provide not only space to educate, but with their lofty ceilings, large windows, and elegant historic details, are structures that inspire. We ask that the Council not approve the SCA's plans for its demolition. A way must be found to reuse the historic building and make it a part of the new plan.

PS 133 is an architecturally significant five-story limestone and brick building. Because it has been found eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places any proposal involving the building will require the approval of the State Historic Preservation Office. We understand that the matter is currently under review at that office and that they are requesting alternatives to the demolition of the building.

We encourage the SCA to continue working with the State Historic Preservation Office to find an alternative approach to the proposal. A well-designed addition would provide the extra classroom space needed and would function alongside the restored older school building.

Today, we ask the Council to give the SCA the clear message that they must come up with an alternate proposal; one that does not entail the demolition of PS 133

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.

**TESTIMONY OF MARK A. SILBERMAN, LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION, ON INT. 542-A, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES.
JUNE 23, 2009**

This testimony is submitted in connection with the Subcommittee's consideration of Int. No. 542-A. Under section 25-321 of the Landmarks Law, a building permit issued prior to designation is considered "grandfathered" and the work may proceed after designation without approval of the LPC. Instead of grandfathering all pre-existing permits, Int. 542-A would amend section 25-321 to create a procedure for determining whether a pre-existing permit should be grandfathered based on the amount of work that has occurred. Specifically, Section 1 of the proposed bill provides that all DOB permits shall automatically lapse by operation of law at the time the LPC designates the building. A building owner may appeal to the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") within 30 days after the designation to have the permit renewed. If the BSA determines that "substantial performance and substantial expenditures have been made in furtherance of such permit" prior to designation it could renew the permit.

Int. 542-A also requires that the LPC give the DOB written notice of every property that has been calendared" (Section 2), and, for these buildings, requires that DOB forward a copy of permit applications to the LPC within three days of their submission. (Section 3.) DOB is prohibited from approving any "portion of construction documents relating to property that has been calendared . . . unless that portion has received a full examination by the department." (Section 2.) It also requires LPC to give DOB notice of all designations. (Section 2.)

In amending Landmarks Law section 25-321, the proposed bill attempts to

address an issue with the existing law: some building owners may seek to obtain a DOB permit for substantial facade work or even demolition as a way to fend off potential landmark designation. Under the existing law, a DOB permit issued prior to designation is considered “grandfathered” and the work can proceed without LPC review or approval. In some cases, the permit has been pulled in connection with development plans that have been under active consideration for long periods of times, even years; in others it is obtained solely to preserve the owner’s ability to develop the site in the future. The existence of such a demolition or façade permit can be an impediment to landmark designation; in deciding whether to designate the LPC must carefully weigh the scope of the approved work, the reasons for wanting to designate the property, and the significant features of the property.

The LPC respectfully submits the following observations and comments on Int. 542-A.

First, the bill is an improvement over Intro. 542, as it only applies to permits affecting the exterior of the building.

Second, the bill attempts to address a serious issue, of property owners pulling permits for inappropriate work in an attempt to foil landmark designation. Fortunately, this is a rare occurrence. We believe the proposed review procedure will be most effective against efforts to pull permits for inappropriate work right before designation, because there will not be enough time to perform substantial work. It will also be more effective against efforts to deface or demolish individual landmarks, as opposed to efforts to damage buildings in potential historic districts. With an individual landmark, the LPC may be able to expedite its research in response to a permit application and designate the

building before a permit is issued or substantial construction work is done. Because historic districts involve many, often hundreds, of buildings and the research is more involved and the process lengthier, it is more difficult to significantly expedite the designation process and it is more likely that a permit can be pulled and substantial work performed on an individual building before designation. While the loss or damage of any historic resource is regrettable, the significance of a historic district lies in the cumulative “sense of place” created by all of the buildings and spaces, so the loss of a building or some historic fabric will not appreciably diminish that sense of place.

It is important to note that changing how the existing law works could have some negative unintended consequences. Currently, some building owners may rush to pull a DOB permit prior to designation even though they have no present intention to actually do the work. It has been our experience that when it comes time to do the work, now after designation, the building owner or a new owner may want to change the scope or design of the work. Since any change to the grandfathered work requires LPC approval, the desire to modify the grandfathered permit gives us an opportunity to work with the owner to make the work better. Take for example a permit to construct a highly visible rooftop addition. Currently, when it comes time to do the work the owner, perhaps a new owner, may want to make changes to the footprint or design. At this point the LPC is often able to figure out a way to make the grandfathered addition better, less visible or more appropriately designed, in exchange for allowing some modification to the grandfathered design. Intro. 542-A would change this dynamic, because now an owner would know that she would have to do the work in order to grandfather it, so the original, inappropriate addition would be built. Once built, it is less likely that an owner will

want to substantially change it.

Third, the standard used by the BSA, “substantial construction and substantial expenditures” should be defined. If expending the soft costs and effort necessary to pull a DOB permit, the architect’s and engineer’s fees for drawing up plans, is sufficient to satisfy the standard, the bill would accomplish little.

Fourth, it is unclear how the bill is intended to affect permits involving scenic landmarks. (Section 1.) Scenic landmarks are by definition city-owned. On the one hand, permits for work on a “landscape feature” in a scenic landmark are treated like any other permit and automatically lapse at the time of designation. On the other hand, city-owned improvements and city-aided projects are specifically exempted from the provisions of the bill.

Fifth, with respect to the proposed notice requirements, Sections 2, 3 and 4, we read these provisions as trying to codify what is known as the “40-day” protocol, a proposal we would support. The 40-day protocol is an interagency agreement between the DOB and LPC that has been in effect since at least the mid-1980s. Under this protocol, the DOB, which has 40 days to act on a permit application under the Building Code, will hold any permit application on a calendared building for 40 days before acting on the application. This gives the LPC the time and opportunity to designate the building prior to the issuance of a permit for inappropriate work. If this indeed is the intention, we think the provision should explicitly refer to the 40 day period and prohibit issuance of a permit until that time period has expired, instead of saying that “no portion of construction documents relating to property that has been calendared . . . may be approved unless that portion has received a full examination by the department.”

Finally, it should be noted that the LPC already gives the DOB notice of all calendared and designated buildings. When a building is calendared the LPC staff goes into the DOB's Building Information System and puts a "C" in the "Landmark" field; when a building is designated, the LPC staff changes the "C" to an "L". That is how the DOB knows that a permit application has been submitted that affects a calendared or designated building. We would propose that this notice be sufficient under the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Commission's views on Intro. 542-A.

I am happy to answer any questions.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

SUBMIT

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542 A Res. No. _____

written in favor in opposition

Testimony

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Slattey

Address: 570 Lexington Avenue

I represent: Real Estate Board of New York

Address: S/A

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steve Kramer

Address: _____

I represent: Dept of Buildings

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mark A. Sikberman

Address: 1 Centre Street, NY NY

I represent: Landmarks Preservation Commission

Address: SAD

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. 542A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Goldwyn

Address: _____

I represent: NY Landmarks Conservancy

Address: 1 Whitehall St NYC 10004

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. PS133 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Goldwyn

Address: _____

I represent: NY Landmarks Conservancy

Address: 1 Whitehall St, NYC 10004

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. PS133

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ZORINA GURI

Address: 664 BALTIC ST BKLYN, NY

I represent: KHEM IRBY - Parent

Address: 471 Jefferson Ave

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. 542 a Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lo van der Valk

Address: _____

I represent: Carnegie Hill Neighbors

Address: 170 E 92nd St, NY NY 10128
212-996-5520

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

1123

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: !

Address: NORTH WALLMOUNTED

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1171 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gigi Silberberg

Address: Amity St, HRA, Inc.

I represent: _____

Address: _____

~~Mendez~~

bill
Mendez

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 542A

in favor in opposition

Date: June 23, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alex Herrera

Address: 22nd Marks Conservancy

I represent: 222 White Hall St.

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melissa Bellak

Address: 132 St. Marks Pl, #4

I represent: Municipal Art Society

Address: 457 Madison Avenue, NY NY 10022

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/23/2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LINDSMITH SMITH

Address: 20 E. 104th St, #4B, New York, NY 10021

I represent: Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts

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. 542 A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Andrew Berman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 232 E 11

I represent: Greenwich Village Society for

Address: Historic Preservation

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-23-2009

Name: Aaron Sosnick (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 143 Ave B, NY, NY 10009

I represent: East Village Community Coalition

Address: 143 Ave B

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

Name: Simon Bankoff (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Historic Districts Council

Address: 232 E. 11 St, NY 10003

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. 542-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zachary Weisman

Address: 45 W. 67th St. New York, NY 10023

I represent: Landmark West 1

Address: 45 W. 67th St. New York NY 10023

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 542-9 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: June 23, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Ashby

Address: 8 East 96th Street, NYC 10128

I represent: The Historic Neighborhood

Address: Enhancement Alliance

**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: June 23, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rosemary Stuart

Address: 131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn NY

I represent: District 15, Department of Education

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: 6.23.09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID S. GLASS

Address: _____

I represent: TRC - Consultant to NYCSCA

Address: 1430 Broadway NY, NY 10018

**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: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANNA CIECIERSKA

Address: _____

I represent: NYCSCA

Address: 30-30 THOMSON AVE, LIC 11101

**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: GREGORY P. SHAW

Address: 140-30 Thomson Ave LIC NY

I represent: NYC School Construction Authority

Address: 30-30 Thomson Ave LIC NY

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

1123

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KENRICK ON

Address: 30-30 THOMSON AVENUE, LIC, NY 11101

I represent: NYC Sector Construction Authority

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: 6.23.09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: Landmark Pre

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

1233

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HEATHER FOSTER-MANN

Address: 375 Butler Street

I represent: Public School 133 students

Address: Brooklyn, NY families

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. Reiko Solomky Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Simsen Bankoff

Address: _____

I represent: Hirstein Dist. Co.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Reiko Tahara

Address: 621 Baltic St. #2

I represent: Baltic St. Community Garden

Address: at PS133

**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: Dawn Philip

Address: _____

I represent: New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

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. 1123

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zack Schilman
Address: 1399 Pacific St #4 Brooklyn NY 11216
I represent: Green Guerrillas
Address: 677 Lafayette Ave Brooklyn NY 11216

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/22/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emilia Sherifova
Address: 409 Butler Street Brooklyn NY
I represent: community residents
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Mugivan
Address: 231 Mamaroneck Blvd Port Washington NY
I represent: Advocate for School Indoor Air Quality
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. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James M. Cervino Ms, PhD.

Address: 9-22 119th St. College Point NY 11356
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution & PACE

I represent: _____ University

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARCIA MURRAY

Address: 395 Butler St

I represent: Butler & Baltic HOMEOWNERS

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. PS 133 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LEO BLANKMAN

Address: 230 E 12TH ST 10003

I represent: SELF

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. PS133 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ERIK McCLURE

Address: 423 4th ST. BROOKLYN, NY 11215

I represent: PARK SLOPE NEIGHBORS

Address: SAME

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. PS133 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMEON BANKOFF

Address: _____

I represent: Historic Districts Council

Address: 232 E. 11 St, NY 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

PS133 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SERGIO AMADOR

Address: 59 4th AVE

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

1123

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. P.S. 133 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6.23.09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr Annette HALL

Address: 632 BALTIC STREET Bklyn

I represent: Home owners

Address: Baltic / Butler Street Brooklyn

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-23-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JoAnne Simon

Address: 356 Fulton Street, 3rd Floor Brooklyn, 11221

I represent: NY 5 Democratic Committee member + district

Address: same header

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-23-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle de la H

Address: 621 DeGraw Street Brooklyn, NY 11217

I represent: Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc.

Address: 621 DeGraw Street

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

PS 133/Item #1123 Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: S.J. Avery

Address: 390 Butler St

I represent: Community Resident

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PATRICIA CONWAY

Address: 670 Warren St.

I represent: Fifth Ave. Comm. & neighborhood residents

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: June 23, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ~~Tracy~~ Tracy Kannapel

Address: 659 DeGrau St #2

I represent: Baltic Street Community Garden

Address: _____

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

PS 133

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1123

in favor in opposition (PS 133)

Date: _____

mendez (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alex Herrera

Address: 1 Whitehall St.

I represent: N.Y. Landmarks Conservancy

Address: 1 Whitehall St. NY NY 10004

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. PS 133 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 27 JUNE 09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VED BLACKMAN

Address: 230 E 12TH ST 8B 10003

I represent: SELF

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. PS 133 plan Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jean Arrington

Address: 450 W 147 ST, Apt 54

I represent: CANY - CBS Snyder

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. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JULIE CLAIRE
Address: 654 WARREN ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11217
I represent: BALTIC ST COMMUNITY GARDEN + AREA
Address: RESIDENTS

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1123 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Khem Irby
Address: 471 Jefferson Ave
I represent: P.S. 133 Parents
Address: Butler St

**THE COUNCIL Jamaica H.S.
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1118 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeffrey Gottlieb
Address: 150-26 Jewel Avenue
I represent: Central Queens Historical Assoc
Address: P.O. Box N, Kew Gardens NY 11415

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. 1121 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Angelo Mascia

Address: _____

I represent: Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center; More

Address: (NYC Health; Hospitals Corporation)

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

HOWLAND
HOOK

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 6.23.09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VENETIA LANTON ANDREW GENN

Address: 110 WILLIAM ST

I represent: NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP

Address: CAA

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