



NYC
**Landmarks Preservation
Commission**

George W. Curtis House

234 Bard Avenue, Staten Island
Staten Island Block: 00138; Lot: 0166

Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties
Staten Island Group 1 Items

Staten Island Community Board 1
Public Hearing Date(s): 9/13/1966



Photos: (left), 2014 (right) undated

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Staten Island on **October 22, 2015** and encourages interested parties to submit written testimony in advance of that hearing. Each speaker will be given three minutes total to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within Staten Island Group 1, just particular items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance, and submit their written statements and materials that will be read at the hearing by **October 15, 2015** to backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov.

If you have questions about this property or the hearing process please contact backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building's research file.



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George W. Curtis House Description

Built: c. 1859

Architect: not determined

Style: Italianate with some Greek Revival elements

Landmark Type: Individual

Research Staff Statement (2011)

GEORGE WILLIAM AND ANNA CURTIS HOUSE

234 BARD AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND

BLOCK 138 / LOT 166

BUILT: C. 1859

ARCHITECT: NOT DETERMINED

ORIGINAL OWNER: GEORGE WILLIAM AND ANNA CURTIS

STYLE: TRANSITIONAL ITALIANATE STYLE WITH GREEK REVIVAL STYLE ELEMENTS

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: HEARD SEPTEMBER 13, 1966

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATIONS: METAL SIDING REMOVED C. 1999

This house is apparently one of only two surviving houses from an enclave of homes occupied by prominent abolitionists in Livingston in the pre-Civil War period (the other is the already designated Samuel McKenzie Elliott House at 69 Delafield Place).

It was the residence of the noted literary figure and abolitionist George William Curtis (1824-92) and his wife the former Anna Gould Shaw. Anna Curtis's father, the prominent businessman and abolitionist Francis George Shaw, erected the house for the Curtises c. 1859. Her brother, Robert Gould Shaw, was killed in 1863 while leading the first African-American regiment to see service in the war in an attack on Fort Sumter.

This frame house was designed in a transitional Italianate-style with some Greek Revival elements; notable architectural elements include cross-gabled roof, Greek Revival entry with side lights and columned porch. The house remains a largely intact example of early suburban architecture on Staten Island.

Curtis was editor of *Putnam's Magazine* and later of various Harper Brothers publications including *Harper's Weekly*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *Harper's Bazaar*. A famous lecturer and writer, his speeches and essays in favor of Abolition and in support of Union cause were vastly influential. He was also a strong supporter of Women's Suffrage and Civil Service Reform and was president of the National Civil Service Reform League, 1881-92. This house was a gathering place for leading figures in the arts, politics, and social reform movements of the period.

