



Legend

- Proposed Boerum Hill Historic District Extension
- Boerum Hill Historic District (Designated)
- Building Footprints
- New York City Tax Lots

Boerum Hill Historic District Extension
 Borough of Brooklyn
 Calandered: October 31, 2017
 Public Hearing: May 8, 2018



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Boerum Hill, LPC

The Boerum Hill Historic District Extension consists of approximately 288 buildings in three distinct areas adjacent to the original historic district designated in 1973. The western section includes the blocks of Dean and Bergen streets between Smith and Hoyt streets; the northern section includes portion of Atlantic Avenue between Hoyt and Nevins streets, and Pacific Street between Hoyt and Bond streets; and the eastern section includes blocks of Wyckoff and Bergen streets between Bond and Nevins streets. Built to serve a diverse community of merchants, waterfront laborers, and Wall Street commuters, the Boerum Hill Historic District Extension is architecturally and culturally significant for the ways in which it reflects Brooklyn's history and architecture.

The Historic District Extension was built during two periods of neighborhood development. In the late 1840s-1850s, industrial growth along the South Brooklyn waterfront spurred the construction of speculative row houses into the western part of Boerum Hill. At the same time, new transportation infrastructure such as the Long Island Railroad's Atlantic Avenue branch and a local horse car line offered residents much faster access to the South Ferry and Manhattan. Atlantic Avenue began to serve as a primary center of commercial activity during this period. The second phase of residential development in the Boerum Hill Historic District Extension occurred after the Civil War in the eastern section, coinciding with the opening of the Gowanus Canal and the arrival of factories and warehouses just south of the neighborhood.

The residential blocks in the Extension are notable for their largely intact architectural character and their similarities to the existing Boerum Hill Historic District, while the additional section along Atlantic Avenue enriches our understanding of the neighborhood's commercial and social history. The commercial storefronts and single-family row houses dating from the 1850s to the 1870s were mostly designed in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles; more eclectic styles appeared in the 1880s as the last remaining empty lots were filled, including a row of Second-Empire-style houses on Bergen Street, and neo-Grec-style apartment buildings scattered throughout the Historic District Extension. This mix of styles and the handsome decorative details applied to relatively modest structures reveal the aspirations of local residents and developers, many of whom had arrived as immigrants pursuing the American dream.

With its proximity to the South Brooklyn waterfront, the Gowanus Canal, and Atlantic Avenue, the Boerum Hill Historic District Extension tells the story of how the combined forces of industry and commerce drove the urban development of Brooklyn in the 19th century. Its architecture is representative of this period of residential design, and its intact streetscapes retain a distinct and cohesive historic character.