



Landmarks Preservation  
Commission

St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church

138 Bleecker Street, Brooklyn  
Brooklyn Block: 03306; Lot: 0006

Brooklyn Community Board 4  
Public Hearing Date(s): 7/8/1980

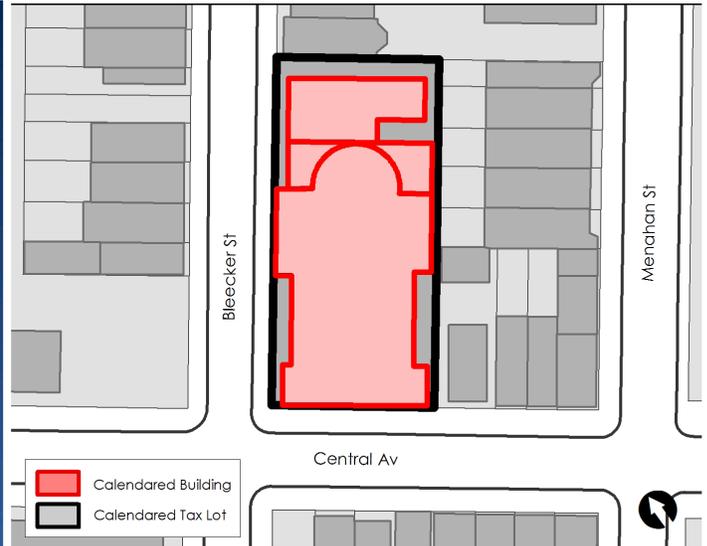


Photo 2013

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Brooklyn on **October 8, 2015**. Each speaker will be given three minutes to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within the Borough, specific items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance and submit written statements by **October 1, 2015** to [backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov). If you are unable to attend the hearing, your written submissions will be entered into the record and distributed to the Commissioners.

If you have any questions about this property or the hearing process, please contact [backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto: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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**St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church Description**

Landmark Type: Individual

Built: 1907 - 1910

Architect: Helme & Huberty

Style: Spanish Mission Revival or neo-Plateresque style

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ST BARBARA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 299-307 Central Avenue, Brooklyn.

Designed in 1907 by architects Helme & Huberty, St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church is an early example of a building designed in the Spanish Mission Revival or neo-Plateresque style. Constructed of yellow brick and gleaming white terra cotta, the church towers above the low-rise residences of the surrounding area, and is the most prominent structure in Bushwick.

Founded in 1894 as a German parish, St. Barbara's has served successive generations of immigrants. The present church building was designed by a leading turn-of-the-century Brooklyn architectural firm, Helme & Huberty, who were responsible for many important public and institutional commissions. Their buildings were designed in a wide stylistic spectrum and include such notable works as the Boathouse in Prospect Park, the Shelter Pavilion in Monsignor McGoldrick Park, and St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church.

It is the sumptuous Spanish Baroque or Plateresque detailing that is considered to give St. Barbara's its architectural importance. This neo-Plateresque style is unusual for a church in the northeastern United States, particularly one built as early as 1907. The Plateresque architecture of 17th century Spain combines large unornamented wall areas with sections that are embellished with highly ornate and complex classically-inspired forms. The entranceway is generally given the most ornate treatment on these buildings. The Plateresque style was brought to the New World by early Spanish settlers in Mexico and the American southwest. St. Barbara's is modeled after the mission churches built in these areas.

St. Barbara's follows the basic form of 17th-century Plateresque buildings. The church has a terra-cotta frontispiece in the form of a triumphal arch that



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gives emphasis to the main facade. This dramatic frontispiece is enlivened by projecting Corinthian columns, squat twisted columns, sculptural panels and bands, and a projecting rounded pediment. Heavy unornamented brick pavilions with terra-cotta quoins flank the entranceway, but these are crowned by decorated terra-cotta towers. The church is cruciform in plan and the facade of the north transept on Bleecker Street is designed as a small frontispiece. A large Renaissance-inspired dome covers the church crossing.

Located in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, St. Barbara's stands as a solid anchor in the neighborhood.