

## **EMPIRE STATE DAIRY CO. (LATER BORDEN DAIRY CORP.) BUILDINGS**

2840-2844 and 2846-2850 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn

Block 3964 / Lot 8 in part

Built: c. 1906-07; c. 1914-15

Architect: Theobald Engelhardt; Otto Strack

Style: Renaissance/ Romanesque (1906-07); Abstracted Classicist with Secession Details (1914-15)

Actions: N/A

The complex of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century industrial buildings located on Atlantic Avenue between Schenck Avenue and Barbey Street in the East New York section of Brooklyn was originally constructed in two stages as a dairy distribution center for the Empire State Dairy Company. Theobald Engelhardt designed the earlier buildings that date from c. 1906-07. He was an eminent and prolific Brooklyn architect known for his commercial and manufacturing buildings, particularly breweries, but also for his churches, hospitals, and residences. Otto Strack, a German-born architect who was notable for his factories, breweries, theaters, and residences, designed the later c.



1914-15 buildings. Shortly after the Empire State Dairy completed the complex, it was sold to the Borden Dairy Company with the buildings acquired as part of the sale. The two three-story attached c. 1906-07 brick-and-masonry buildings at the southeast corner of Atlantic and Schenck Avenues (2840-2844 Atlantic Avenue; 181-185 Schenck Avenue) are notable for their round- and segmental-arched window openings accentuated by masonry keystones and decorative terra-cotta tympani and a continuous molded cornice featuring a bracketed arcade. Farther east along Atlantic Avenue are three 1914-15 brick buildings (2846-2862 Atlantic Avenue, aka 250-258 Barbey Street) with the slightly taller one as the centerpiece of the complex. Architecturally defined by three tall vertical bands of steel-sash multi-light windows flanked by two tall piers capped with corbelled brickwork, this building is particularly notable for two large panels featuring intricate polychrome ceramic tiles, depicting Swiss pastoral folk scenes with cows. They are considered to be one of the largest, surviving intact decorative tile installations from the American Encaustic Tile Company. Flanking this taller structure are two symmetrical similarly-designed structures clearly intended to be read together as a single, larger building. In addition to the importance of the decorative tile installations, these handsome brick buildings stand today as century-old reminders of the once prominent New York dairy companies and of the city's important industrial past.

