



## NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair

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### **LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH III HISTORIC DISTRICT**

*Crown Heights North III Becomes NYC's 114<sup>th</sup> Historic District*

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously approved the designation of the Crown Heights North III Historic District in Brooklyn, citing its architectural, historic and cultural significance. The designation brings the total number of historic districts and historic district extensions to 135 in all five boroughs. The new district consists of more than 600 buildings, including single- and two-family row houses, flats buildings, and apartment houses primarily built from the 1870s to the 1930s.

"The Crown Heights North III Historic District is a remarkably well-preserved testament to the quality of Brooklyn's residential architecture at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is a worthy complement to the earlier designated Crown Heights Historic Districts," said Commission Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan. "The distinctive buildings in this district represent an incredibly rich layering of historic, cultural, and architectural development, creating a notable sense of place and cohesion."

The area, once occupied by the Lenape people, eventually became farmland that was auctioned off in the 1830s and 1850s. The district's earliest surviving row houses at 1472-1476 Pacific Street were constructed around 1870 (at right). The historic district blossomed following the 1888 opening of the Kings County Elevated Railway along Fulton Street to the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge. Hundreds of handsome row houses designed in a variety of styles were constructed in the district into the early 1900s and the neighborhood became known as the "fashionable" St. Mark's District. The houses at **1101 to 1113 Park Place** (below) are representative of early Renaissance-inspired row houses within the historic district.



As development intensified in Crown Heights North in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, flats buildings began to be constructed. Although two-family row houses were popular, many residents objected to the shared entrances and to the lack of access to light and fresh air. In response, in 1905 the Kings & Westchester Land Company began constructing two-family duplex houses, later known as "Kinko" houses, which had two entrances and at least one window in each room. This exceptional concentration of two-family duplex houses, a building type constructed for only about a decade, is a standout feature of the Crown Heights North III Historic District.

By the early 1920s, many Jewish families had started settling in the neighborhood, and in 1925 the monumental **Shaari Zedek Synagogue** (at right) opened at the southeast corner of Park Place and Kingston Avenue to house the city's largest Conservative congregation.



Significant changes continued to occur in the district after this period, most importantly, its evolution into a majority African- and Caribbean-American neighborhood. The district's most significant figure was Shirley Chisholm—the Country's first black Congresswoman—who, beginning in 1945, lived in four locations in the historic district, including 1094 Prospect Place and 1066 Prospect Place. She and her husband Conrad were living at 1165 Sterling Place in 1968 when she was elected to Congress, and owned the house at 1028 St. John's Place when she undertook her 1972 run for the U.S. Presidency.

The buildings in the district represent the wealth of architectural styles that flourished during this period, including the Neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, and Art Deco, as well as the Romanesque, Colonial, and Renaissance Revival styles. On its west, this district adjoins the Crown Heights North and Crown Heights North II Historic Districts, which were designated in 2007 and 2011, respectively.

The designation brings the total number of protected buildings and sites in Crown Heights to 1752. That figure includes 448 buildings and sites in the Crown Heights North Historic District, and 630 buildings and sites in the Crown Heights North II Historic District.

The Crown Heights North III Historic District extends these earlier districts eastward from Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues to Albany Avenue, ranging from the north side of Pacific Street southward eight blocks to Lincoln Place.

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The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the mayoral agency responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to approximately 32,743 buildings and sites, including 1347 individual landmarks, 117 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 114 historic districts and 21 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered among the most powerful in the nation, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough.

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