

238 President Street House

238 President Street, Brooklyn
Tax Map Block 351 Lot 12

Built: c. 1853

Architect: Not determined

Style: Italianate

Proposed Action: Proposed for Calendaring April 10, 2018



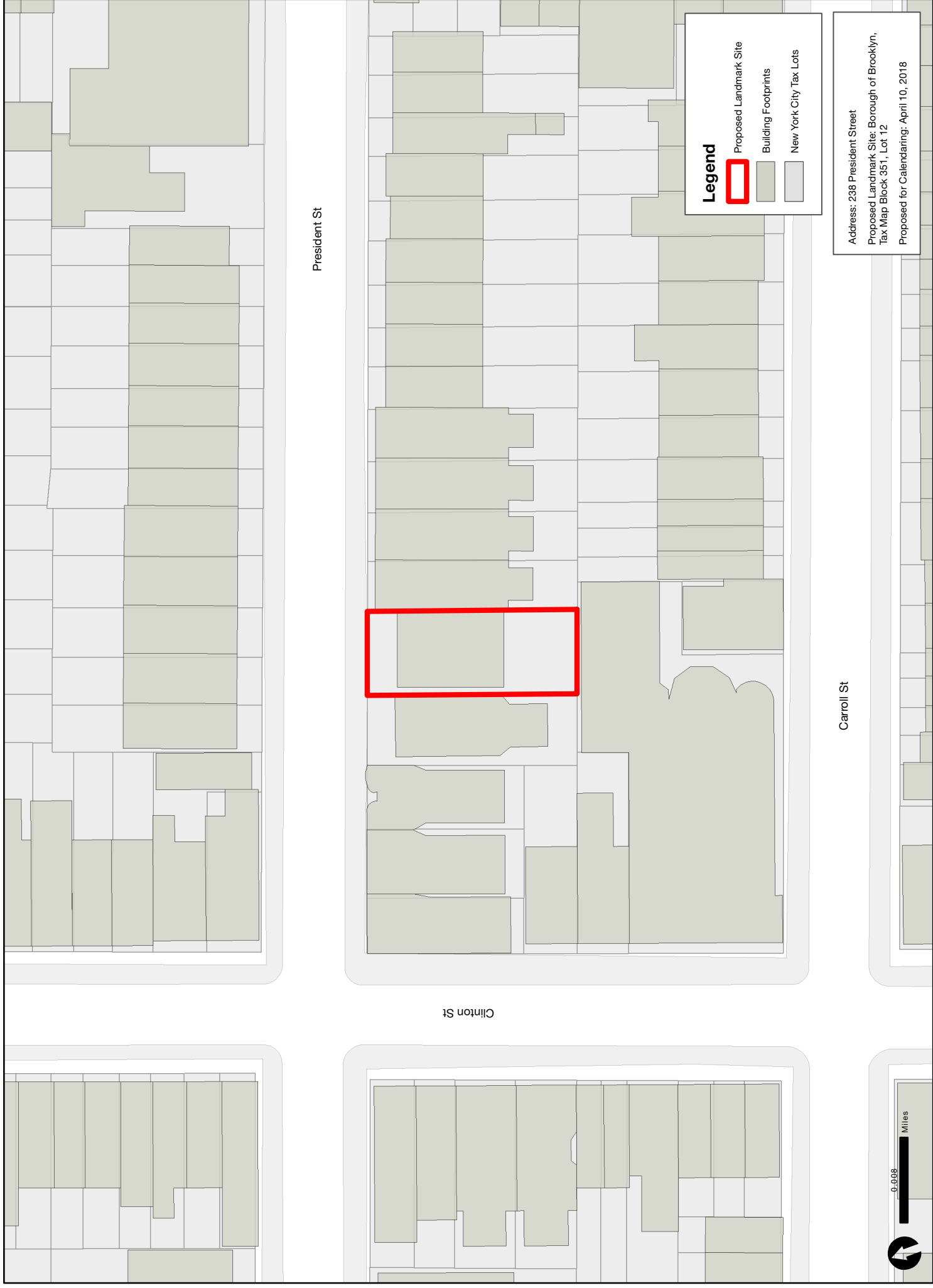
238 President Street House, LPC, 2018

No. 238 President Street is a striking pre-Civil-War house in Carroll Gardens, notable for its grand proportions and elaborate cast-iron ornament. The stately brick residence was constructed by merchant Edward Kellogg in c. 1853, originally as one of a pair of attached houses. Early advertisements called it “a first class extra wide three story and attic” residence “built in the best and most thorough manner by day’s work.” In 1869, it was purchased by Caroline Currie, whose husband was also a merchant, and during her ownership, the house was described as “pleasantly situated and conveniently arranged for the comfortable accommodation of a large family.” The Curries remained in the house with their children and multiple servants for 15 years. It continued to serve as a private residence following its purchase in 1884 by Etta Shattuck, the wife of Warren Shattuck, a partner in a leather-goods company.

In 1897, Shattuck sold the property, which included an undeveloped portion, to Elmira S. Christian, a devout Methodist. Christian renovated 238 President Street into the Deaconess Home, Brooklyn’s first permanent residence and training center for Methodist deaconesses. On the undeveloped portion of the site, she constructed the Hans S. Christian Memorial Kindergarten as a memorial to her late husband, noted at the time as “the only building of the kind in Brooklyn, so far as known”. In addition to teaching “the lessons of morality and practical Christianity,” the deaconesses performed duties similar to those of settlement-house workers, and many are presumed to have taught in the adjacent kindergarten. As part of Christian’s renovation of the house, its attic was expanded into a full fourth floor containing a “haven” for the entertainment of guests.

Now an apartment building, 238 President Street remains one of Brooklyn’s most impressive Italianate style houses, featuring an imposing four-bay brick facade with arched openings, ornate, finely detailed cast-iron trim, and a rich cultural history.

(Proposed) 238 President Street House | LP-2612



Legend

- Proposed Landmark Site
- Building Footprints
- New York City Tax Lots

Address: 238 President Street
Proposed Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn,
Tax Map Block 351, Lot 12
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