



**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

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**COMMISSION APPROVES NEW HISTORIC DISTRICT IN BROOKLYN AND
MOVES 1,000 OTHER BUILDINGS CLOSER TO LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

*Ocean on the Park in Flatbush Is the 13th District Created Outside Manhattan Since
2003, More Than Any Other Administration; Hearings Held on Proposals for Four Other
Historic Districts*

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously approved the Ocean on the Park Historic District, a group of 12 distinctive, early 20th-century rowhouses bordering Prospect Park in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. The panel also held public hearings on proposals for four other historic district designations totaling 1,022 buildings in Brooklyn and Manhattan.



“The Commission took a number of significant steps today towards extending landmark protection to more than 1,000 buildings across the City, most of which are outside

of Manhattan,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “These actions underscore our commitment to protecting more of New York City’s outstanding architecture and history in all five boroughs.”

The Commission held public hearings on proposals to expand the **Greenwich Village Historic District** by 240 buildings, the **SoHo-Cast Iron Historic District** by 100 buildings and the **Upper East Side Historic District** by 72 buildings, as well as create a new district with 610 buildings in the Crown Heights North section of Brooklyn, called **Crown Heights North, Phase II**. It also held a public hearing on a proposal to approve landmark status for the **Brill Building** at 1619 Broadway, an 11-story Art Deco structure with close associations to American pop music.

Finally, the Commission also voted to calendar, or schedule, public hearings on proposals to designate the **Grace Episcopal Church Memorial Hall** at 155-24 90th Avenue, and a branch of the former **Jamaica Savings Bank** (now a branch of Capital One Bank) 146-21 Jamaica Avenue, both in the Jamaica section of Queens, the **Haffen Building** at 2804 Third Avenue in The Hub section of the Bronx, and the **Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection** at 59-63 East 2nd Street, in the East Village section of Manhattan.

A description of the newly designated district follows below:

Ocean on the Park Historic District, Ocean Avenue bet. Lincoln Road and Parkside Avenue



The new district, located in Flatbush, consists of 12 three-story rowhouses built between 1909 and 1918 across from Prospect Park. One of the residences, 193 Ocean Ave., was owned by Charles H. Ebbets, who owned the predecessor team to the Brooklyn Dodgers and developed Ebbets Field. The ballpark was demolished in 1960.

The buildings were developed during the earliest stages of urbanization in Flatbush on a parcel that may have been owned in the 17th

century by Jan Aertsen Vanderbilt, the progenitor of the Vanderbilt family. Flatbush remained a farming community through the end of the Civil War.

“With its uniform, dramatic setback and low scale, the district recalls one of the earliest stages of the urbanization of Flatbush,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “The buildings stand out as a fine example of residential development along a stretch of Ocean Avenue that’s lined with apartment houses.”

Faced with limestone, 10 of the 12 buildings were designed in the Renaissance Revival style by Axel S. Hedman, a prolific Swedish-born architect who was well-known in Brooklyn, and completed in 1910. They were constructed on deep lots, enabling Hedman to include unusually deep front yards that are connected by a walkway and bordered by a wall along the sidewalk. They feature angular or rounded bays, iron grille work, raised terraces, ornament such as wreaths, baskets of fruit and garlands of flowers and galvanized iron cornices.

The remaining two rowhouses were later constructed and designed by two separate architects, in different styles. No. 189 Ocean Ave. is designed in the Arts and Crafts style by Eric O. Holmgren, another prolific Brooklyn architect and was completed in 1917. No. 191 Ocean Ave. is designed in the Federal Revival style by Philip A. Faribault, and was completed in 1915. The brick rowhouse has stone sills and lintels, a simple metal cornice and an arched entrance surround with Ionic columns.

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 more than 25,000 buildings, including 1,243 individual landmarks, 110 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks and 99 historic districts in all five boroughs. Under the City’s landmarks law, considered 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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