



**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

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BRONX ROW NAMED NEW YORK CITY'S 100TH HISTORIC DISTRICT

*Commission Designates Nine Distinctive Residences in Bedford Park and
Weighs Protection for Dozens of Buildings on the Grand Concourse, City Island and in
Other Bronx Neighborhoods*

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to approve the designation of the Perry Avenue Historic District in the Bronx, the 100th district in New York City to receive landmark protection. The Commission also moved forward with proposals to designate a historic district along a section of the Grand Concourse, and eight other buildings elsewhere in the Bronx, part of a Commission initiative to protect more examples of the borough's past.

"We focused on designation proposals for the Bronx today to illustrate the remarkable range and depth of the borough's architecture and history," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "Today's actions represent the culmination of several Commission surveys of the borough's historic resources."



The Perry Avenue Historic District, located in Bedford Park, is comprised of nine well-preserved single-family residences constructed between 1910 and 1912, and designed in the Queen Anne style. The buildings are located on the northwest side of Perry Avenue between Bedford Park Boulevard and East 201st Street.

Bedford Park, named for a London suburb, was carved out of a 230-acre tract where a racetrack was once located. Its first houses, large Queen Anne-style cottages on spacious lots, were built in the early 1880s, at around the time of the arrival of daily commuter trains to nearby stations. Development accelerated further when several rail lines were extended to the neighborhood, and in 1910, Bronx builder George D. Kingston bought the Perry Avenue lots and hired architect Charles S. Clark to design the residences.

Clark is responsible for a number of institutional, commercial, residential and industrial structures in the Bronx and Manhattan, including several large Art Deco-style apartment houses near the Grand Concourse and eight houses that are now part of the Longwood Historic District in the south Bronx.

The district's nine three-story houses, which sit atop picturesque fieldstone walls that enclose small front yards, were built to house the middle class, and many of them were originally owned by German immigrants. They included four bedrooms, two bathrooms, cellars, laundry areas and servant's quarters.

The wood-frame residences feature alternating facades of orange and red brick and are unified by such details as sloping slate roofs, splayed lintels and iron cornices. Some of them were constructed with three-sided porches, while others have projecting porticos.

The neighborhood changed significantly between the 1920s and 1950s with the construction of large apartment houses that currently define much of the neighborhood.

"This lively row has hardly changed since the time it was constructed, and is a vivid reminder of the origins of Bedford Park," Chairman Tierney said. "The houses retain the architectural details and distinctive suburban character that existed nearly a century ago."

The Perry Avenue Historic District is the Bronx's 10th historic district. There are approximately 895 designated sites in the borough, including approximately 90 individual landmarks.

In addition to approving the Perry Avenue Historic District, the Commission voted to calendar, or schedule, a public hearing on a proposal to designate a historic district along a section of the Grand Concourse between 153rd to 167th streets. The proposed district consists of 73 buildings, many of which are designed in the Art Deco and Moderne styles. The Commission also calendared a c. 1860 Italianate style farmhouse at 65 Schofield St., on City Island. Dates were not immediately set for either hearing.

Public hearings were held on proposals to give landmark status to the **Dollar Savings Bank**, constructed in 1919, at 2792 Third Avenue, in the Hub; the **Percy R. Pyne-Elie Nadelman House**, constructed in 1880 at 4715 Independence Avenue, Riverdale; the **Greyston Dodge Estate Gatehouse**, constructed c. 1863-1869, Riverdale; the **Noonan Plaza Apartments**, constructed in 1931, at 105-149 West 168th Street, in Highbridge ; **6 Ploughman's Bush House**, constructed c. 1867 in Fieldston; the **Haffen Building**, constructed in 1902 at 2804 Third Avenue, in Melrose; and the former **Union Reformed Church**, now the Highbridge Community Church, constructed in 1890 at 1272 Ogden Avenue, in Highbridge.

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 1,250 individual landmarks, 110 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks and 100 historic districts in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered one of 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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