



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

August 19, 2009 / Calendar No. 28

N 100002 HKK

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated July 1st, 2009, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the Prospect Heights Historic District, designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on June 23rd, 2009 (Designation List 414/LP-2314), Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 8. The district boundaries are:

property bounded by a line beginning at the southwest corner of Underhill Avenue and Prospect Place, extending southerly along the western curbline of Underhill Avenue to a point in said curbline formed by its intersection with a line extending westerly from the northern property line of 349-351 Park Place, aka 147-151 Underhill Avenue (Block 1160, Lot 1), easterly across Underhill Avenue and along said property line, northerly along the western property line of 369 Park Place, easterly along the northern Property lines of 369 to 411 Park Place and a portion of the northern property line of 413 Park Place, easterly along the angled northern property lines of 413 to 421 Park Place, southerly along the eastern property line of 421 Park Place across Park Place to its southern curbline, easterly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northerly from the eastern property line of 426 Park Place, southerly along said property line, easterly along the northern property lines of 423 to 429 Sterling Place, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 429 Sterling Place, easterly along the northern property line of 431 Sterling Place, southerly along the eastern property line of 431 Sterling Place, across Sterling Place to its southern curbline, easterly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northerly from the eastern property line of 446 Sterling Place, southerly along said property line, westerly along the southern property lines of 446 to 364 Sterling Place, northerly along a portion of the western property line of 364 Sterling Place, westerly along the southern property line of 346 Sterling Place, aka 185 Underhill Avenue and across Underhill Avenue to its western curbline, southerly along said curbline to the northwest corner of Underhill Avenue and St. John's Place, westerly along the northern curbline of St. John's Place to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southerly from the western property line of 323 St. John's Place, aka 200 Underhill Avenue, northerly along the angled property lines of 323 St. John's Place, aka 200 Underhill Avenue, and 198 to 188 Underhill Avenue, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 188 Underhill Avenue, northerly along the western property lines of 186 Underhill Avenue (aka 186A Underhill Avenue) to 176 Underhill Avenue, aka 340-344 Sterling Place, and across Sterling Place to its northern curbline, westerly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northerly across Sterling Place from a portion of the eastern property line of 288 Sterling Place, aka 29 Butler Place, southerly across Sterling Place and said property line, following its eastward angle to the northern curbline of Butler Place, westerly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southerly from a portion of the western property line of 286 Sterling Place, aka 27 Butler Place, northerly along said property line, westerly along the angled southern property lines of 284 and 282 Sterling Place, continuing westerly along the southern property lines of 280 to 276 Sterling Place, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 274 Sterling Place, westerly along the southern property line of 274 Sterling Place, northerly along a portion of the western property line of 274 Sterling Place, westerly along the southern property line of 272 Sterling Place and the angled southern property lines of 270 and 268 Sterling Place, northerly along the western property line of 268 Sterling

Place and across Sterling Place to its northern curblin, westerly along said curblin to the northeast corner of Sterling Place and Vanderbilt Avenue, northerly along the eastern curblin of Vanderbilt Avenue and across Park Place to a point in said curblin formed by its intersection with a line extending eastward from the southern property line of 630A Vanderbilt Avenue, westerly across Vanderbilt Avenue and along said property line, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 210A-220 Prospect Place and the eastern property line of 233-235 Park Place, across Park Place and continuing southerly along the eastern property line of 248 Park Place, westerly along the southern property line of 248 Park Place, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 226-246 Park Place, westerly along the southern property line of 226-246 Park Place, southerly along the eastern property line of 213 Sterling Place to the northern curblin of Sterling Place, westerly along said curblin northerly along the eastern curblin of Flatbush Avenue, easterly along the northern property line of 375 Flatbush Avenue, easterly along the northern property lines of 375 Flatbush Avenue and 183 to 187 Sterling Place, northerly along portions of the western property lines of 189-191 Sterling Place and 200 Park Place, westerly along a portion of the southern property line of 200 Park Place and the southern property lines of 196 to 188 Park Place and the angled southern property lines of 186 to 180 Park Place, northerly along the western property line of 180 Park Place and across Park Place to its northern curblin, westerly along said curblin, northerly along the eastern curblin of Carlton Avenue to a point in said curblin formed by its intersection with a line extending easterly from the southern property line of 632A Carlton Avenue, westerly across Carlton Avenue and along said property line to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southerly from the western property line of 632 Carlton Avenue, northerly along said line and the western property line of 632 Carlton Avenue, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 632 Carlton Avenue, northerly along the western property lines of 628-630 and 626 Carlton Avenue, westerly along the angled southern property lines of 140 and 138 Prospect Place, northerly along a portion of the western property line of 138 Prospect Place, westerly along the southern property line of 321 Flatbush Avenue to the eastern curblin of Flatbush Avenue, northerly along the eastern curblin of Flatbush Avenue to the northern curblin of Prospect Place, westerly along said curblin to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southward from the western property line of 115 Prospect Place, northerly along said property line and the angled western property lines of 112 to 102 St. Mark's Avenue, westerly along the southern property line of 283 Flatbush Avenue to the eastern curblin of Flatbush Avenue, northerly along said curblin to the northern curblin of St. Mark's Avenue, westerly along the northern curblin of Saint Mark's Avenue to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southward from the western property line of 75 St. Mark's Avenue, northerly along said property line, easterly along the northern property line of 75 St. Mark's Avenue, northerly along a portion of the western property line of 77 St. Mark's Avenue, easterly along the northern property lines of 77 to 107 St. Mark's Avenue and a portion of the northern property line of 109 St. Mark's Avenue, northerly along the western property line of Block 1143, Lot 140 (an interior lot), westerly along a portion of the southern property line of 538 Bergen Street and the southern property lines of 536 and 534 Bergen Street, northerly along the western property line of 534 Bergen Street and across Bergen Street to the northern curblin of Bergen Street, westerly along said curblin to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southward from the western property line of 531 Bergen Street, northerly along said property line, easterly along the northern property lines of 531 to 535 Bergen Street and a portion of the northern property line of 537 Bergen Street, northerly along

the western property line of 546 Dean Street to the southern curbline of Dean Street, easterly along the southern curbline of Dean Street to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southerly from the western property line of 536 Carlton Avenue, aka 561-565 Dean Street, northerly across Dean Street and along the western property lines of 536 to 522 Carlton Avenue, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 522 Carlton Avenue, northerly along the western property lines of 520 to 516 Carlton Avenue, aka 734-738 Pacific Street, to the southern curbline of Pacific Street, easterly along said curbline to the southwest corner of Pacific Street and Carlton Avenue, southerly along the western curbline of Carlton Avenue and across Dean Street to the southwest corner of Dean Street and Carlton Avenue, easterly across Carlton Avenue and along the southern curbline of Dean Street to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northerly from the eastern property line of 555 Carlton Avenue, aka 574 Dean Street, southerly along the eastern property lines of 555 to 565A Carlton Avenue and a portion of the eastern property line of 567 Carlton Avenue, easterly along the northern property lines of 573 to 585 Bergen Street, southerly along the eastern property line of 585 Bergen Street and across Bergen Street to the southern curbline of Bergen Street, easterly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending southward and across Bergen Street from the western property line of 570 Vanderbilt Avenue, aka 635 Bergen Street, northerly across Bergen Street and along the western property lines of 570 to 566 Vanderbilt Avenue and a portion of the western property line of 564 Vanderbilt Avenue, westerly along a portion of the southern property line of 564 Vanderbilt Avenue, northerly along portions of the western property lines of 564 and 560 Vanderbilt Avenue, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 560 Vanderbilt Avenue, northerly along a portion of the western property line of 560 Vanderbilt Avenue and the western property lines of 558 to 552 Vanderbilt Avenue, aka 662 Dean Street to the southern curbline of Dean Street, easterly along said curbline and across Vanderbilt Avenue to the southeast corner of Vanderbilt Avenue and Dean Street, northerly across Dean Street and along the eastern curbline of Vanderbilt Avenue to the southeast corner of Vanderbilt Avenue and Pacific Street, easterly along the southern curbline of Pacific Street to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northward from the eastern property line of 565 Vanderbilt Avenue, aka 820-826 Pacific Street, southerly along the eastern property lines of 565 to 583 Vanderbilt Avenue and across Dean Street to its southern curbline, easterly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northward from the eastern property line of 680 Dean Street, southerly along the eastern property line of 680 Dean Street and the angled eastern property line of 589 Vanderbilt Avenue, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 591 Vanderbilt Avenue, southerly along the eastern property line of 591 Vanderbilt Avenue and a portion of the eastern property line of 593 Vanderbilt Avenue, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 593 Vanderbilt Avenue, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 593 Vanderbilt Avenue and the eastern property lines of 593½ to 601 Vanderbilt Avenue, aka 651 Bergen Street, continuing southerly across Bergen Street to its southern curbline, westerly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northerly from the eastern property line of 603 Vanderbilt Avenue, aka 640 Bergen Street, southerly along the eastern property lines of 603 to 623 Vanderbilt Avenue to the northern curbline of St. Mark's Avenue, westerly along said curbline to a point formed by its intersection with a line extending northerly and across St. Mark's Avenue from the eastern property line of 625 Vanderbilt Avenue, aka 236 St. Mark's Avenue, southerly across St. Mark's Avenue and along the eastern property lines of 625 to 633 Vanderbilt Avenue and a portion of the eastern

property line of 635 Vanderbilt Avenue, easterly along the northern property lines of 239 to 277 Prospect Place, northerly along a portion of the western property line of 281 Prospect Place, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 281 Prospect Place, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 281 Prospect Place, easterly along a portion of the northern property line of 281 Prospect Place and the northern property lines of 287 and 289 Prospect Place, southerly along the angled portion of the eastern property lines of 289 and 291 Prospect Place, easterly along the angled northern property lines of 293 to 297 Prospect Place, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 297 Prospect Place, easterly along the northern property lines of 299 to 307 Prospect Place, southerly along a portion of the eastern property line of 307 Prospect Place, easterly along the northern property line of 309 Prospect Place, southerly along the eastern property line of 309 Prospect Place and across Prospect Place to its southern curblin, and easterly along said curblin to the point of the beginning.

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(a) and (b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of the designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whether of a historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements, and any plans for the development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

The Prospect Heights Historic District encompasses 850 buildings, constructed for the most part between the middle of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The predominate character of these buildings are single-family row houses and apartment buildings. The historic district is located in Brooklyn's Prospect Heights neighborhood, which was occupied by the Lenape Indians at the time of European contact. During the eighteenth century, the land came into possession of a number of different owners, several of whom were slave owners. The land that makes up the district was still predominately farm and wood lands until the middle of the nineteenth century. However, transportation improvements linking Prospect Heights and Brooklyn's waterfront ferries, and the development of Prospect Park to the south, attributed to the area's growth. Construction of Prospect Park began in 1866 and the park opened to the public in 1871.

The earliest houses of the Prospect Heights Historic District were built in the Italianate style of architecture, popular from about 1840 to 1870. The two frame houses at 578 and 580 Carlton Avenue appear to date from the 1850s and are the oldest buildings in the district. These buildings still retain some of their Italianate style details. Row houses began to be designed in two variations of the Italianate style, the Anglo-Italianate, popular from about 1865 to 1870 and the Italianate style with Second Empire elements, popular from 1870 to 1885. By the mid-1870s the simpler neo-Grec style supplanted the rounded, ornate Italianate, Anglo-Italianate and Second Empire styles. Prospect Heights has houses dating from the second half of the 1870s and the 1880s designed in the neo-Grec style by prominent Brooklyn architects such as the Parfitt Brothers, John H. Doherty, Nelson Whipple, Jeremiah J. Gilligan, Eastman & Daus and Marshall J. Morrill.

The Romanesque Revival style was also popular in Prospect Heights and there are many examples dating from the late 1880s and 1890s. Classically-inspired styles gained popularity in America as a reaction to the picturesque Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne styles. The restrained Renaissance Revival style, popular from about 1880 to 1910, is also well represented in the district. Many of the residences designed by Benjamin Driesler, Axel Hedman and Magnus Dahlander, major Brooklyn architects of the time, combined elements from both the Romanesque Revival and Renaissance Revival styles.

The multiple dwellings built in Prospect Heights during the nineteenth century were designed in all of the popular residential styles, including the Italianate, neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Romanesque, and Renaissance Revivals styles. These buildings were typically four-story

walkups. The earliest multiple dwellings in the district appear on Vanderbilt Avenue, in the early 1870s. Vanderbilt Avenue and Flatbush Avenue, two of the major thoroughfares in Brooklyn, are characterized by multi-family residential buildings with ground floor commercial spaces in Prospect Heights.

Additionally, the Prospect Heights Historic District has some important institutional buildings, including the former Public School 9 Annex, the Duryea Presbyterian Church, and the former Mount Prospect Laboratory. Although the district was substantially built prior to 1910, it does have some fine examples of styles popular in the early twentieth century including the Colonial Revival, neo-classical, Arts and Crafts, Art Deco and Moderne styles.

The Prospect Heights Historic District remains among Brooklyn's most architecturally distinguished areas. The area continues to retain its cohesion due to its tree-lined streets, scale, predominant residential character and its architectural integrity. The district is contained within R8X, R7A, and R6B zoning districts. The R8X, R7A, and R6B zoning districts allow maximum FARs of 6.02, 4.0, and 2.0, respectively. All three zoning districts permit Use Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Pursuant to Section 74-79 of the Zoning Resolution, no transfer of development rights is permitted from any structure within an historic district. All landmark buildings within historic districts are eligible to apply for use and bulk waivers pursuant to Section 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(a) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 5, 2009 (Calendar No. 20). There were no speakers and the hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

The City Planning Commission has evaluated the Prospect Heights Historic District in relation to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements and plans for the development, growth and improvements in the vicinity of the area involved. The historic district designation does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement, or renewal within the historic district or surrounding area.

AMANDA M. BURDEN, FAICP Chair
KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq., Vice Chairman

ANGELA M. BATTAGLIA, RAYANN BESSER, IRWIN G. CANTOR, P.E.,
ANGELA R. CAVALUZZI, AIA, ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, RICHARD W. EADDY,
NATHAN LEVENTHAL, SHIRLEY A. MCRAE, KAREN A. PHILLIPS, Commissioners