

DESIGNATION REPORT

# Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House



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# Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House

**LOCATION**

Borough of Brooklyn  
227 Duffield Street

**LANDMARK TYPE**

Individual

**SIGNIFICANCE**

A c. 1848-1851 brick row house significant for its association with Harriet and Thomas Truesdell who lived there from 1851 to 1863 and were active abolitionists in Brooklyn before the Civil War.



**227 Duffield Street**

January 2021

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# Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House

227 Duffield Street, Brooklyn

## Designation List 522 LP-2645

**Built:** c. 1848-1851

**Architect:** Not Determined

**Landmark Site:** Borough of Brooklyn, Tax Map Block 146, Lot 15

**Calendared:** June 30, 2020

**Public Hearing:** July 14, 2020

**Designated:** February 2, 2021

On June 30, 2020, the Landmarks Preservation Commission placed on its calendar the Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House, identified for its individual merit and historical significance.

On July 14, 2020, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House as a New York City Landmark and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No.#1). The hearing was duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Forty-three people testified in favor of the proposed designation, including New York State Attorney General Letitia James, New York City Councilmembers Stephen Levin and Inez Barron, State Assemblymember Charles Barron and a representative of Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, First Deputy Public Advocate of the City of New York Nick Smith, a representative of Community Board 3; and representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, Historic Districts Council, Professional Archeologists of New York City,

Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE), the Society for the Architecture of the City, Black Lives Matter Brooklyn, Equality for Flatbush, Bowery Alliance of Neighbors, Brooklyn Anti-gentrification Network, Washington Street Advocacy Group, Friends of La Martine Place, 4 Boro Preservation Alliance, Harlem Historical Society, Preserve East New York, Queens Preservation Society, and the Walt Whitman Initiative. A representative of the owner of 227 Duffield Street testified in opposition to the designation.

The Commission also received 83 written submissions in support of the proposed designation and one written submission from an individual who was opposed to the designation.



## Summary

### Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House

The brick row house at 227 Duffield Street is historically significant for its association with Brooklyn abolitionists, Harriet (1786-1862) and Thomas (1789-1874) Truesdell, who resided there for more than a decade before the Civil War. Both Thomas and Harriet were active participants in antislavery organizations for many years, first while living in Rhode Island and later in Brooklyn.

In the early 19th century, Brooklyn's economy relied heavily on the storage and export of agricultural products shipped from the Southern slave-holding states. At the same time, its waterfront location and large population of free African Americans made it a hub for abolitionist activity. Brooklyn's busy working waterfront was an important entry point for freedom seekers who stowed away on ships to escape slavery in the South, and many of them were sheltered by local abolitionists before either staying in Brooklyn or traveling north to Upstate New York, New England, or on to Canada.

Thomas and Harriet Truesdell moved to New York City from Providence, Rhode Island, in 1838. A year later they moved to Brooklyn, living first in Brooklyn Heights. In 1851 they bought a modest three-story house at 227 Duffield Street. It was built in a simplified Greek Revival style as part of a newly constructed row of houses extending north from Fulton Street. Before moving to Brooklyn, Thomas was a longstanding member of the Providence Society for Abolishing the Slave Trade, and a founding member of both the Rhode Island State Anti-Slavery Society and the New England Anti-Slavery Society. Harriet was equally

active as a co-founder of the Providence Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, and a delegate representing Rhode Island at the Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in 1838. The Truesdells were longtime friends of prominent Boston abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. During the time they lived on Duffield Street, they supported Garrison's American Anti-Slavery Society and subscribed to the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*.

While living at 227 Duffield Street from 1851 to 1863, the Truesdells continued to support abolitionist causes when such activity was dangerous and illegal following the 1850 passage of the Fugitive Slave Law. Due to harsh penalties both on freedom seekers and those accused of aiding them, the period after 1850, and before the abolition of slavery nationwide in 1865, was marked by more clandestine abolitionist activity. Housing freedom seekers at this time was a dangerous and secretive activity, making Underground Railroad activity difficult to document or verify. Recent verbal accounts of the Truesdell House being a stop on the Underground Railroad have not been confirmed after extensive research and physical analysis. However, the building is significant as a rare example of a property associated with notable abolitionists for more than a decade.

Relatives of the Truesdells owned 227 Duffield Street until 1921, resulting in a 70-year association with the family. The house was subsequently altered, reflecting early 20th-century changes in the neighborhood. These alterations included the removal of original front and rear porches and the construction in 1933 of a two-story commercial extension. Above this extension, the 1850s brick facade, fenestration, window surrounds and cornice remain. The building's form and historic fabric still convey its 19th century residential character and association with the Truesdells and Brooklyn's significant abolitionist history.

## Building Description

Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House

### Description

227 Duffield Street, built 1848-51, is a former row house located midblock along the east side of Duffield Street in Downtown Brooklyn between Fulton and Willoughby streets. Although originally part of a row that included both brick and frame houses, it is currently the only remaining 19th-century row house along this section of Duffield Street. When built, its immediate neighbor to the south at 229 Duffield Street, also a brick row house, was constructed with the same design and materials as 227 Duffield Street.<sup>1</sup>

The site is a narrow lot with the building's primary facade at the sidewalk edge. When built, the side lot line walls were not visible within the row. Today, the wall along the north side of the house is visible from the planned park and the upper two stories at the rear are visible from Gold Street. The rear of the lot is an undeveloped yard.

The three-story brick row house with a raised basement originally had front and rear porches that were removed in the early 20th century. The row house was altered in 1933 with a two-story brick commercial extension, above which the features identifying it as a 19th century row house—including its brick facade, fenestration pattern, window surrounds, cornice, and roofline remain intact.

The current neighbors of 227 Duffield Street include a 19-story hotel, built 2011-13, immediately adjacent to the south and vacant land to the north, planned as a public park, Willoughby Square. The park is expected to commemorate Brooklyn's 19th-century abolitionist history. There are a number of

modern high-rise buildings constructed within the past 15-20 years along this section of the street, and two late-19th-century buildings on the west side of Duffield Street, including the Offerman Building, (1890-93, a designated New York City Landmark).<sup>2</sup>

### Primary Facade (west)

The three-story building with a raised basement is three bays wide, constructed of red brick laid in a running bond and features original window openings at the upper floors. The openings are trimmed with brownstone lintels and sills set flush or slightly projecting within the wall, respectively. The front facade is topped by a flat-board frieze with four narrow wood brackets singly spaced along the width. The house has a shallow pitched roof hidden behind the brick parapet.

A two-story brick addition from 1933 extends the full width of the front facade at the basement (ground floor) and first story. This addition was built between the original building and the edge of the sidewalk to accommodate a commercial use at the ground floor. There is a single door entrance and a storefront window at the ground floor and three single window openings with multi-light steel-sash windows at the first story. The red brick is laid in a common bond pattern and there is a tall parapet that is marked with a brick panel design and three inset stone squares.

### Alterations

Alterations at the front facade include the following: open porches removed; two-story commercial extension added in 1933; multi-light double-hung wood window sash and brick molding removed in the two upper stories of the main house and a variety of window types added; and stone lintels and sills coated or painted. There is a metal cellar hatch in the concrete sidewalk.

### **Rear Facade (east)**

The rear facade, which was not historically visible from the public way, is an unadorned three-bay wide brick facade, clad in a common bond pattern with lintels of brick soldier courses at the second story and rowlock courses at the third story windows. There is a flat-board frieze at the cornice. Several wall-like extensions along the south parapet are visible from Gold Street. At the time of designation, it is noted to be in poor condition.

### **Alterations**

Alterations at the rear façade include the following: open porch removed; multi-light double-hung wood window sash and brick molding removed and replaced with a variety of window types; window openings modified to accommodate smaller sash and a door opening at fire escape; fire escape added; and lower stories painted or parged.

### **Side Façade (north)**

Originally a lot line wall, this facade is now exposed. There are no openings, but there are two chimneys atop the parapet. The 1933 addition is clad in beige brick.

### **Alterations**

The brick at the main building was either painted or parged and there is a satellite dish on the roof.

## History and Significance

Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House

### Slavery in New York City<sup>3</sup>

From 1851 to 1863, 227 Duffield Street was home to Thomas and Harriet Truesdell, who were active in the movement to abolish slavery in the United States. Slavery was present in what is now New York City from its earliest European settlement with the first enslaved people brought to New Amsterdam in 1626 by Dutch settlers. After the British gained control, the practice of slavery became even more entrenched and new repressive laws were written affecting both the enslaved and the small number of free Blacks.

During the 18th century, Colonial New York City had one of the largest urban African populations in the American colonies. Both free and enslaved people worked on the waterfront, on farms, in construction, and within households as servants.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the long history of slavery, New York City became a refuge for African Americans who fought in the Revolutionary War. They were offered freedom in exchange for their service in the War. When the War ended, several thousand remained and formed communities of free African American residents.

The formation of the United States involved negotiation and compromise with the slave-holding states. After the creation of the United States, some enslaved persons were able to work independently or negotiate their freedom from slaveholders; however, legal justification for slavery remained firmly in place. As the new republic became established, a movement formed to end the international slave trade and to abolish slavery through the legislative process.

### Emancipation Efforts in New York<sup>5</sup>

In 1799, New York State passed the Gradual Emancipation Act, allowing for the manumission (release from slavery by a slave owner) of children born into slavery but only after reaching the age of 25 for women or 28 for men. While the number of enslaved people in New York dropped significantly after the passage of this law, emancipation (granting freedom as legal status) was not achieved. Although the state abolished slavery in 1827, children born to enslaved mothers up until the eve of when the law took effect, July 4, 1827, would remain in servitude up to the age of twenty-one.

While these laws would incrementally dismantle slavery in New York State, the legal fight to abolish slavery was complicated by the City's deep economic ties to the slave-owning Southern states. For example, the New York State constitution allowed slaveholders from the South to bring enslaved persons into New York for up to nine months without freeing them. In general, New York City leaned more toward condoning slavery and many did not support emancipation.<sup>6</sup>

### Free African Americans in New York City and Brooklyn

During the Colonial period communities of free Africans settled in the area of Manhattan just north of today's City Hall. Under Dutch rule, enslaved Africans who had obtained free or half-free status were able to receive grants of land in the area from the Collect Pond north to what is now 34th Street.<sup>7</sup> One of these areas to the north was near today's Minetta Place in the South Village, where free Africans farmed small patches of land.<sup>8</sup>

By 1830, New York City had the North's largest free African American population.<sup>9</sup> Despite the abolition of slavery in New York State in 1827, free Blacks faced rampant discrimination in employment, education, criminal justice,



transportation, and property ownership.

Many worked and lived in free Black communities, building churches and schools, printing newspapers, and establishing fraternal organizations and societies. New York City's first significant community of free African American property owners was Seneca Village, located within what is now the western boundary of Central Park, a New York City Scenic Landmark. Founded by free African Americans in 1825, Seneca Village was a vibrant middle-class and multi-ethnic settlement with several hundred residents by 1855.<sup>10</sup>

Sandy Ground, another community for free African Americans, was formed on Staten Island two decades prior to the Civil War. Many of its residents owned property, worked in the oyster trade, and established businesses and institutions. Three houses, a church, and cemetery are designated New York City Landmarks as significant historic properties associated with Sandy Ground.<sup>11</sup>

Weeksville in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood was one of the largest free African American settlements in New York.<sup>12</sup> Little remains today except four frame houses on Hunterfly Road, designated New York City Landmarks.<sup>13</sup> Weeksville began with James Weeks, an African-American longshoreman from Virginia, who bought land in 1838. Soon it became a haven for others with similar circumstances and the ability to buy property.<sup>14</sup>

In Weeksville, and other free Black communities, many residents were active proponents of abolition and participants in local abolitionist groups. For example, 'Committees' were formed by Black abolitionists offering legal assistance and protection. In particular, "Weeksville offered...safety from kidnappers and slave catchers, and the Committee used it as a place to hide fugitives."<sup>15</sup> Many also participated in Underground Railroad networks, offering assistance and shelter to people seeking freedom from slavery.

## **Abolitionism in the United States**

Organized abolitionist movements began to appear in the 18th century as Atlantic slavery expanded. As the struggle intensified, abolitionism depended on a broad range of participants and activities. One author defines an abolitionist as "...any person, group, or political party for which slavery's destruction became the central aim."<sup>16</sup>

Recent scholarship has placed more importance on the abolitionist movement's dependence on African Americans, both enslaved and free, in partnership with whites who supported immediate total emancipation. Beginning in the 1820s, free African Americans and freedom seekers made increasingly aggressive demands for equal citizenship and "...became the driving force behind the transformation of American abolitionism."<sup>17</sup>

As such, abolitionist activity took many forms and involved people across the racial spectrum and activists from a range of social, and religious backgrounds. There were eloquent orators, writers and reformers such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison traveling the abolitionist lecture circuit, dedicated working-class African Americans, concerned merchants such as Thomas Truesdell, and inspiring clergymen like Henry Ward Beecher.<sup>18</sup> Women were also prominent and active in the abolitionist movement, including Harriet Tubman, Lucretia Mott, Abigail Hopper Gibbons, and founders and organizers within ladies' anti-slavery societies like Harriet Truesdell.

## **Abolitionist Activity in New York City and Brooklyn**

New York City was home to influential people and important organizations dedicated to abolishing slavery. The American Anti-Slavery Society, with headquarters in New York City, was founded in 1833 by William Lloyd Garrison from Massachusetts and Arthur Tappan, an abolitionist in New York City.

The society was particularly active during the 1830s and published the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*.<sup>19</sup>

The New York Committee of Vigilance was founded in 1835 with David Ruggles as its secretary. Ruggles was a free African American journalist in lower Manhattan who was one of the City's most significant anti-slavery and Underground Railroad activists. As part of his dedicated work, he aided Frederick Douglass who came to New York City after escaping from slavery. Douglass went on to become one of the most significant activists in the abolitionist movement in the nation.

Other Manhattan abolitionists included Henry Highland Garnet, Abigail and James Gibbons, and Theodore S. Wright. Garnet was an African American orator and minister who grew up in and later worked in New York City, supporting the major anti-slavery societies. Abigail Hopper Gibbons and her husband James used their house at 339 West 29th Street (within the Lamartine Place Historic District) as a meeting place for the abolitionist movement and as a documented stop on the Underground Railroad.<sup>20</sup> Wright, like Ruggles, was an African-American abolitionist who was instrumental in the formation of the American Anti-Slavery Society.<sup>21</sup>

In 1840 Arthur Tappan and his brother, Brooklynite Lewis Tappan, were prominent organizers in the formation of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.<sup>22</sup> Although these organizations differed in their philosophy and focus, each welcomed both African American and white supporters.

Like Manhattan, Brooklyn has a rich abolitionist history, particularly in the decades before the Civil War when the Truesdells lived in Brooklyn Heights and later Downtown Brooklyn. In the early 19th century, Brooklyn's waterfront economy relied heavily on agricultural products like sugar, tobacco, and cotton from the Southern slave-holding states. While this created a tolerance for slavery, many

fugitives entered Brooklyn via this shipping route. Its waterfront location and large population of free African Americans made it a hub for abolitionist activity.<sup>23</sup>

Among Brooklyn's noted abolitionists was James W. C. Pennington, who came to Brooklyn seeking freedom from slavery in Maryland. He worked in Brooklyn Heights as a coachman and became a distinguished abolitionist and preacher. Another was Lewis Tappan, who moved to Brooklyn after the Manhattan anti-abolitionist riots of 1834. He was a businessman who worked tirelessly to abolish slavery, founded the abolitionist journal *Human Rights*, and helped finance the anti-slavery newspaper, *The Emancipator*, founded by his brother Arthur Tappan.<sup>24</sup> Houses associated with both Pennington and Lewis Tappan are located within the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.<sup>25</sup>

Churches in Brooklyn were also instrumental in the anti-slavery movement. Most notable was Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights where Brooklynite Henry C. Bowen recruited Henry Ward Beecher in 1847 to become the minister of a new Congregational Church that would become a radical stronghold of abolitionist activity.<sup>26</sup> Beecher's compelling Sunday sermons drew overflowing crowds into the sanctuary, with many traveling from Manhattan to Fulton Ferry Landing on ferries referred to as "Beecher Boats."

Closer to Duffield Street, the Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church of Brooklyn played an active role in the anti-slavery movement. In 1854, this congregation, the oldest African American congregation in Brooklyn, moved into the First Free Congregational Church building, a designated New York City Landmark.<sup>27</sup> "During the antebellum period, Brooklyn's black churches emerged as active agencies in the struggle against slavery."<sup>28</sup>

Thomas and Harriett Truesdell's documented abolitionist activity in Brooklyn includes meetings with William Lloyd Garrison, and supporting anti-slavery organizations and publications.

### **Underground Railroad**

According to historians, the term "Underground Railroad" developed in the early 1840s to describe the loosely organized networks that had existed for decades to assist enslaved people escaping from the South.<sup>29</sup> Despite New York's reputation in the early 19th century as a conservative mid-Atlantic community with close economic ties to the South, New York City and Brooklyn became important abolitionist centers and crucial way stations along Underground Railroad routes to Upstate New York, New England, and Canada. Many of the most famous abolitionists who had escaped slavery, such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Henry "Box" Brown, and Harriet Tubman, passed through New York City or Brooklyn on their way farther north.<sup>30</sup>

Housing escaped enslaved persons was a secretive and dangerous activity, especially after the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act was passed requiring all escaped slaves be returned to those who had enslaved them and authorizing fines and imprisonment on those that were involved. Nonetheless, historians have established that housing fugitives was not uncommon. Historian Eric Foner has written that "Nearly every prominent white abolitionist, as well as antislavery politicians...at one time or another assisted fugitive slaves; many sheltered them in their homes. So did just about every major black abolitionist."<sup>31</sup>

There are several important buildings with documented associations to the Underground Railroad that still stand today in Brooklyn, such as Plymouth Church in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District, referred to as the "Grand Central Depot" of the Underground Railroad,<sup>32</sup> and the Bridge Street

African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church (First Free Congregational Church), a designated New York City Landmark.<sup>33</sup> As a clandestine activity, sheltering freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad is difficult to verify through written or physical evidence. Recent verbal accounts of 227 Duffield Street being a stop on the Underground Railroad have not been confirmed after extensive research and physical analysis.<sup>34</sup>

### **Downtown Brooklyn<sup>35</sup>**

The Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House is located in Downtown Brooklyn, a neighborhood that in the early 17th century was occupied by the Canarsee, an autonomous band of Delaware (Leni Lenape) Native Americans, who lived in the area and hunted and fished in the vicinity of Wallabout Bay (now the site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard). By the mid-17th century, traders and farmers primarily from the Netherlands and England had settled in the area paving the way for permanent European occupation.

In the mid-18th century the village of Brooklyn was a small hamlet, an outgrowth of the waterfront at what later would become the bustling Fulton Ferry Landing. The downtown extended out along today's Fulton Street as development intensified. By the early 19th century, Brooklyn grew rapidly with the opening of the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1801 and the introduction of steam ferry service in 1814 between Manhattan and Fulton Street in Brooklyn.

Beginning in 1825, the Erie Canal brought increased growth to Brooklyn with new warehouses along the waterfront and factories on the outskirts of the village. As a result, a thriving commercial district developed along Fulton Street.

Concurrently a patchwork of small estates and farms would gradually be transformed into speculative residential blocks. At first, most of the new houses were concentrated in Brooklyn Heights

and in the neighborhood around the Brooklyn Navy Yard. By the late 1840s, the owners of farms near Fulton Street also subdivided and developed their property. It was then that John Duffield subdivided his farm into lots.

As Brooklyn's downtown and waterfront near Fulton Ferry became a hub of transportation and commerce, the population grew substantially, numbering more than 24,000 when the City of Brooklyn was incorporated in 1834. By 1836, construction began on City Hall (now Brooklyn Borough Hall, a designated New York City Landmark within the Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District), located on a triangular site at the junction of Fulton, Court, and Joralemon, streets creating the civic center of Brooklyn. The Truesdell House is located less than half a mile to the east of Brooklyn Borough Hall and on Duffield Street just north of Fulton Street.

### **227 Duffield Street**

The 227 Duffield Street row house, built 1848-1851, belongs to the first wave of intensive development that began to occur in Downtown Brooklyn in the first half of the 19th century. Most of the present-day lot sits at the eastern edge of what had been the John Duffield estate, a pie-like wedge of farmland that stretched from the Road to Jamaica (today's Fulton Street) to the north near the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Duffield farmhouse used to occupy the southwestern edge of the estate near the intersection with today's Fulton Street.<sup>36</sup>

The John Duffield estate was surveyed by the city in 1827 and by 1829 lot 15 was acquired by Susan Lawrence, John Duffield's daughter. It appears to have remained an undeveloped lot until after it was purchased by Caleb H. and Amelia Baldwin on September 25, 1848.<sup>37</sup> The Baldwins sold it to Robert Bonnell, a local mason on February 6, 1849.<sup>38</sup> The house may have been built 1848-51 during the

years that the Baldwins and Bonnell owned it, since the assessed value increased during that time. Robert Bonnell sold the property to Harriet L. Truesdell on June 5, 1851.<sup>39</sup>

Along a block of both wood frame and brick two- and three-story row houses, the Truesdell house had an original address of 141 Duffield Street. The 1855 Perris fire insurance map shows it midblock with a nearly identical footprint as the two brick row houses immediately to the south.<sup>40</sup>

The Truesdell House is a typical modest residence influenced by the Greek Revival style that populated the streets of pre-Civil War Brooklyn. These houses typically had two- or three-bay flat-front facades, recessed entries with a stone lintel, flat-topped window openings with stone lintels and sills, and wood flat-board cornices with simple brackets. Typically, the half-story stoops provided access to slightly raised parlor floors. When built, the Truesdell House had a full-width open porch at the front and at the rear. The fire insurance map of 1916-20 shows both porches still in place.<sup>41</sup>

By the early 20th century, the neighborhood became increasingly commercial, with a movie theater built at the foot of Duffield Street near Fulton Street. In 1933, 227 Duffield Street was expanded by adding a two-story front addition to accommodate a delicatessen and sandwich shop.<sup>42</sup>

### **Thomas and Harriet Truesdell**

From 1851 to 1863, 227 Duffield Street belonged to Thomas and Harriet Truesdell, and it remained in their family for a period of 70 years. Thomas Truesdell (sometimes spelled Truesdale) was born on July 10, 1789 in Woodstock, Connecticut, and died on March 10, 1874 in Cedar Grove, New Jersey.<sup>43</sup> Harriet Lee, his wife, was born July 10, 1786 in Providence, Rhode Island and died in Brooklyn on June 29, 1862. They were married at the First Baptist Church of Providence on October 14, 1811.

Although they had been married in a Baptist church, Thomas became associated with the Society of Friends, a move that caused his expulsion from the Baptist Church in 1823.

After his father-in-law's death, Thomas carried on his wife's family grocery business, expanding it into a prosperous import-export company. As Truesdell & Wheaton and Truesdell & Rhodes, the range of products the firm advertised included teas, spices, glass, wines, cotton, and tobacco. The company was also involved in real estate and coastal shipping.<sup>44</sup>

Thomas and Harriet moved from Providence to New York City in 1838. This may have been prompted by business interests since New York's importance in the world of commerce increased as a busy port with the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. His business continued to prosper in New York with his office located in Manhattan.<sup>45</sup>

In 1839 the Truesdells moved their residence to Brooklyn, residing first at 14 Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights near Fulton Ferry.<sup>46</sup> Between 1840 and 1851 before they moved to Duffield Street, the Truesdells lived in several locations in Downtown Brooklyn, none of which remain standing. Throughout those years, Thomas continued to maintain his office at 62 Wall Street and later 74 Wall Street in Manhattan.<sup>47</sup>

In 1844 the Truesdell's daughter Mary married Charles W. Frederickson of Nova Scotia at the family home in Brooklyn, officiated by Rev. E. E. L. Taylor, a minister at the Pierrepoint Street Baptist Church.<sup>48</sup> Even though Thomas had gravitated to the Friends (Quakers) in Providence, it appears his family may have associated with the Baptist Church.<sup>49</sup>

In 1851, the Truesdells bought the row house on Duffield Street.<sup>50</sup> According to the 1855 New York census, the household included Thomas and Harriet, their two daughters Abby and Julia, a

granddaughter Harriet L., and Elizabeth Harris, a 19-year old Black servant.<sup>51</sup> In 1862 Harriet died at age 76 while at the house. Thomas moved to New Jersey in 1863, remarried, and died there at age 85. The Truesdell family retained the house until 1921 when Matilda, daughter-in-law of Thomas and his second wife, sold it, ending 70 years of Truesdell ownership.

### **Thomas and Harriet Truesdell, Abolitionists**

Thomas and Harriet were active abolitionists during the crucial years after 1830 when many organizations formed nationally and locally for the express purpose of ending slavery in the United States. Although Thomas dealt with products from the South, it appears he was part of a minority of Northern merchants who also supported total emancipation on moral grounds, despite their economic positions.<sup>52</sup> Thomas and Harriet Truesdell were not only active sympathizers in the movement that opposed slavery, but also co-founders and members of several anti-slavery organizations during the pre-Civil War years.

Providence Rhode Island, like New York City and Brooklyn, was an important center for abolitionist activity before the Civil War. In 1829 and 1830 while in Providence, Thomas is identified as the Rhode Island agent and distributor of *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*, William Lloyd Garrison's first newspaper published in Baltimore.<sup>53</sup> Garrison became nationally known as one of the most influential abolitionists of his day.<sup>54</sup>

Thomas Truesdell was very active in a number of abolitionist societies. He was a longstanding member of the Providence Society for Abolishing the Slave Trade, founded in 1789, five years after Rhode Island passed their own Emancipation Act. Later he joined William Lloyd Garrison as one of the founding members of the Rhode Island State Anti-slavery Society in 1836. In addition to being one of the founders, Truesdell was also a delegate representing Providence to this newly



formed society.<sup>55</sup> During the same year Thomas became a founding member of the New England Anti-Slavery Society.

Harriet Truesdell was equally active in abolitionist activities. She and Catherine Benson, William Lloyd Garrison's mother-in-law, were among the founders of the Providence Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society.<sup>56</sup> Harriet became its secretary in 1835 and served on the organizing committee together with well-known abolitionists, Lucretia Mott, Angelina Grimke Weld, and Juliana Tappan, daughter of Lewis Tappan.<sup>57</sup> In 1838, the same year the family moved to New York, she was a delegate from Rhode Island to the Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in Philadelphia where the participants endured anti-abolitionist mob violence, including burning down the meeting hall.

Both Thomas and Harriet were longtime friends of William Lloyd Garrison, who had become one of the most principled and dedicated leaders in the abolitionist struggle. Beginning in 1831, Garrison published *The Liberator*, which became the standard bearer of immediate emancipation.<sup>58</sup> The anti-slavery societies that Garrison founded were more radical than the earlier groups that had been formed after the American Revolution. He also held the conviction, considered radical and unpopular at the time, that African Americans, Native Americans, and women should be recognized with full citizenship and rights.<sup>59</sup>

William Lloyd Garrison visited the Truesdells at their home when he visited New York in 1838 shortly after they moved from Providence, as noted in his letters. "Since then, I have been under the roof of our ever hospitable friend Thomas Truesdell...Mrs. Truesdell is, as usual, pleasant and smiling."<sup>60</sup> And again he wrote, "In New York, I enjoyed the hospitality (not for the first or second time) of my esteemed friend Thomas Truesdall [sic], formerly of Providence."<sup>61</sup> Garrison also experienced

their hospitality in Brooklyn while he was in New York for the 1840 American Anti-Slavery Society convention. After visiting the Truesdells, he sailed for London to attend the World Anti-Slavery Conference.<sup>62</sup> Both of these visits to the Truesdells occurred before they lived on Duffield Street.

Garrison made note of Thomas Truesdell in a letter dated October 19, 1854, when he visited a house in Brooklyn and noted that other visitors arrived, including "friend Truesdell."<sup>63</sup> This social meeting in Brooklyn occurred while the Truesdells were living at 227 Duffield Street.

The Truesdells continued their association with abolitionist activities during their years on Duffield Street as reported in an 1855 *New York Daily Times* front page article. The City Anti-Slavery Society sponsored a celebration marking the anniversary of Emancipation in the West Indies with rides on the Long Island Railroad. The festive gathering featured speeches by abolitionists, including William Lloyd Garrison who came from Massachusetts for the occasion. The reporter included mention of "Notable Men in the Audience."

"We then noticed...such good anti-slavery men as Roland Johnson, Esq., and Oliver Johnson, of course, Mr. Lauren Wetmore, Hon. Henry W. Wolcott of New Jersey, Mr. Thos. Truesdale, a cotton merchant of New York, with his family, and Joseph Post of Westbury L.I."<sup>64</sup>

Thomas and Harriet continued to support Garrison's American Anti-Slavery Society until 1862, the year of Harriet's death. During that time, they were also listed as subscribers to the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* during the years they lived at 227 Duffield Street.<sup>65</sup>

## Later History

227 Duffield Street remained in the Truesdell family for 70 years, from 1851 to 1921. During the early part of the 20th century, it was listed as a rental property with lodgers.<sup>66</sup> In 1921 Matilda W. Truesdell, daughter-in-law of Thomas Truesdell, sold the house to Samuel A. Dunn. Toward the end of that same year, Louis Abeloff bought the house and held it until 1948.<sup>67</sup>

During the time Abeloff owned the building, it appears it remained in use as a rental property with furnished rooms.<sup>68</sup> In 1933 a change in use noted a luncheonette and a store at 227 Duffield Street. It was at that time that the two-story brick addition was added to the house.<sup>69</sup> As Brooklyn's downtown became more commercial, many row houses were adapted and expanded in a similar way to accommodate small shops, businesses, and restaurants.

On January 10, 1948, Louis Abeloff sold the property to 227 Duffield Street Corporation, noted in the deed as a domestic corporation.<sup>70</sup> Albert and Joy Chatel became owners of the property in 1993.<sup>71</sup> Previous to that, Albert and his first wife Vera Jacob lived there. After Albert died in 1996, Joy Chatel, known to many as Mama Joy, researched the history of the house and became a community activist and advocated for the preservation of 227 Duffield Street based on its ties to abolitionist history and alleged connection to the Underground Railroad.<sup>72</sup> In 2007 the house was removed from the list of properties that were subject to eminent domain seizure as part of the 2004 Downtown Brooklyn Redevelopment Plan, a rezoning and set of space and infrastructure commitments.

Today, the context of 227 Duffield Street's neighborhood has changed dramatically since the 19th century. As part of the Downtown Brooklyn Redevelopment Plan, new mixed-use development has been built nearby. Directly north of the house,

Willoughby Square Park will be a public green space that is expected to commemorate Brooklyn's 19th-century abolitionist history.

## Conclusion

The Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House at 227 Duffield Street is significant as a residence associated with notable abolitionists and anti-slavery activity in Brooklyn before the Civil War. The modest 170-year old brick row house belonged to abolitionists Harriet and Thomas Truesdell who resided there from 1851 to 1863. Both of them were friends of William Lloyd Garrison and co-founders and active members within their respective antislavery organizations. Active in Rhode Island during the 1830s, they continued their support of immediate emancipation in the 1840s after moving to Brooklyn and during the 1850s while living at 227 Duffield Street. The house is a rare survivor of this period of abolitionist activity in Brooklyn when a broad range of people from many different backgrounds and circumstances, including merchants like Thomas Truesdell, vigorously supported and participated in the anti-slavery movement.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The row house at 229 Duffield Street is no longer standing. See 229 Duffield Street, 1940s Tax Department Photographs, 1939-41, Municipal Archives of the City of New York.

<sup>2</sup> In addition to the Offerman Building (LP-2169), there is also an apartment building at 230 Duffield Street, built 1880-87.

<sup>3</sup> This section draws on the following sources: Eric Foner, *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* (New York, W. W. Norton Co., 2015); Peter Ross, *A History of Long Island: From its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902), 119-138; and Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), *Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District Designation Report (LP-2449)* (New York: City of New York, September 13, 2011), prepared by Christopher D. Brazee.

<sup>4</sup> By 1740, 20% of New York's residents were enslaved, and 2 of every 5 households relied on slave labor. For example, records indicate that many of the early Brooklyn families like the Hicks, Joralemons, Middaghs, Pierrepoints, Rapaljes, Remsens, and Sands all owned slaves in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. 1790 United States Census, (Kings County, Brooklyn), 1790, 1800.

<sup>5</sup> Ira Berlin and Leslie Harris, ed., *Slavery in New York* (New York: New York Historical Society, 2005), 125-133.

<sup>6</sup> Local political attitudes reflected the City's close connections to the politics of southern states. For example, when Abraham Lincoln carried New York State in 1860, he received only one-third of the vote in New York City.

<sup>7</sup> LPC, *African Burial Ground and The Commons Historic District Designation Report (LP-1901)* (New York: City of New York, February 25, 1993), prepared by Gale Harris, Jean Howson, and Betsy Bradley. Collect Pond was located at today's Mott and Grand streets.

<sup>8</sup> LPC, *South Village Historic District Designation Report (LP-2546)* (New York: City of New York, December 17, 2013), 6.

<sup>9</sup> Foner, 46; LPC, *South Village Historic District Designation Report (LP-2546)* (New York: City of New York, December 17, 2013), 23-27.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/pr2019/lpc-releases-story-map-highlighting-50-years-of-designations-associated-with-nycs-abolitionist-history.page>

<sup>11</sup> LPC, *Reverend Isaac Coleman and Rebecca Gray Coleman House (LP-2414)* (New York: City of New York, February 1, 2011), prepared by Virginia Kurshan; LPC, *565 and 569 Bloomingdale Road Cottages (LP-2415)* (New York: City of New York, February 1, 2011), prepared by Gale Harris; and LPC, *Rossville A. M. E. Zion Church (LP-2416)* (New York: City of New York, February 1, 2011), prepared by Gale Harris; and LPC, *Rossville A. M. E. Zion Church Cemetery (LP-1399)* (New York: City of New York, April 9, 1985), prepared by Shirley Zavin.

<sup>12</sup> Weeksville predated the grid in the area and was bounded by today's Fulton Street, East New York Avenue, Ralph Avenue, and Troy Avenue. The remaining Weeksville houses are located at Bergen Street near Buffalo Avenue.

<sup>13</sup> LPC, *Houses on Hunterfly Road Designation Report (LP-0729), (LP-0730), (LP-0733), and (LP-0769)* (New York: City of New York), August 18, 1970.

<sup>14</sup> Nichole M. Christian "Hidden Brooklyn, A Bit of Black History, Freedmen's Homes Seen As Attraction," *New York Times*, October 20, 2001, Section F, 1. The recession of 1837 lowered real estate prices and allowed many free African Americans to buy land.

<sup>15</sup> Foner, 166.

<sup>16</sup> Richard S. Newman, *Abolitionism, A Very Short Introduction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 5.

<sup>17</sup> Timothy Patrick McCarthy, 'To Plead Our Own Cause: Black Print Culture and the Origins of American Abolitionism,' in Timothy Patrick McCarthy and John Stauffer, ed., *Prophets of Protest* (New York: The New Press, 2006), 115.

<sup>18</sup> Foner, 18.

<sup>19</sup> Beginning in the early 1830s it is estimated that the American Anti-Slavery Society sent more than 600,000 anti-slavery petitions containing over 2 million signatures to Washington, D. C.

<http://pursuitoffreedom.org/abolitionist-brooklyn/>

<sup>20</sup> LPC, *La Martine Place Historic District Designation Report (LP-2324)* (New York: City of New York, October 13, 2009), prepared by Virginia Kurshan and Theresa Noonan.

<sup>21</sup> LPC, *2 White Street (LP-0086)* (New York: City of New York, July 19, 1966). Wright's house was also included in the Tribeca East Historic District (LP-1711).

<sup>22</sup> The American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society broke away from Garrison's organization over several major issues, including the involvement of women in leadership roles.

<sup>23</sup> LPC, *Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District Designation Report (LP-2449)*, 7.

<sup>24</sup> Edward Rothstein, "When Slavery and its Foes Thrived in Brooklyn" *New York Times*, January 16, 2014; <http://pursuitoffreedom.org/abolitionist-brooklyn/>.

<sup>25</sup> Pennington lived at 70 Willow Street and Lewis Tappan at 86 Pierrepont Street.

<sup>26</sup> Brooklyn abolitionist Henry Chandler Bowen and Thomas Truesdell were both born in Woodstock, Connecticut. They and their families most likely knew one another. Bowen was a staunch abolitionist; he published the *Independent* and the *Brooklyn Union*, both Republican anti-slavery newspapers. Ron Kopnicki, Matt McGhee, and Christabel Gough *Village Views*, Vol. X, Number 1, (New York: Cityscape Foundation and Society for the Architecture of the City, December 2006), 22.

<sup>27</sup> LPC, *First Free Congregational Church Designation Report (LP-2004)* (New York: City of New York, November 24, 1981), prepared by Virginia Kurshan.

<sup>28</sup> Clarence Taylor, *Black churches of Brooklyn* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994), 12.

<sup>29</sup> Foner, 6-7.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 7.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 19.

<sup>32</sup> LPC, *Brooklyn Heights Historic District (LP-0099)* (New York: City of New York, November 23, 1965); <http://www.plymouthchurch.org/underground-railroad>.

<sup>33</sup> LPC, *First Free Congregational Church Designation Report (LP-2004)* (New York: City of New York, November 24, 1981), prepared by Virginia Kurshan.

<sup>34</sup> Michael Devonshire, Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, Inc., "Report of Historic Construction Review of the Duffield St. Houses-Brooklyn, NY," Allee, King, Rosen, Fleming,

Inc. (AKRF), *Research Report on the Potential Underground Railroad Association of the Duffield Street and Gold Street Properties in Downtown, Brooklyn*, Appendix D, February, 2007.

<sup>35</sup> Portions of the following section were adapted from LPC, *Duffield Street Houses (formerly the Johnson Street Houses) (LP-2089)*, (New York: City of New York, April 24, 2001), prepared by Gale Harris; LPC, *Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District Designation Report (LP-2449)* (New York: City of New York, September 13, 2011), prepared by Christopher D. Brazee; Henry R. Stiles, *A History of Kings County Including Brooklyn From 1683 to 1884, Vol. 2* (New York: W. W. Munsell & Co., 1884), 242.

<sup>36</sup> Stiles, p. 133, #4, Map B. A small portion of the east section of today's lot 15 also sits within the former Samuel Fleet estate.

<sup>37</sup> Kings County Office of the Register, *Index to Deeds*, Liber 184, 502 (September 25, 1848).

<sup>38</sup> Baldwin sold the property to Robert Bonnell on February 6, 1849 for an amount three times what he had paid for it. Likewise, when Bonnell sold the property to Harriet Truesdell on June 5, 1851 the price suggests additional improvements may have been made. AKRF, 12-13 and Kings County Office of the Register, *Index to Deeds*, Liber 190, 343 (February 6, 1849).

<sup>39</sup> Kings County Office of the Register, *Index to Deeds*: Liber 248, 403 (June 5, 1851).

<sup>40</sup> *Maps of the City of Brooklyn* (New York: William Perris, 1855), Vol. 2, Plate 28.

<sup>41</sup> *Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn* (New York: E. B. Hyde & Co., 1916-20), Vol 1, Plate 28.

<sup>42</sup> *Insurance Maps of Brooklyn, New York* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1938) and the New York City 1940s Tax Department Photographs, Municipal Archives. Also New York City Department of Buildings Certificates of Occupancy were issued 1932 (one family and 10 boarders) and 1933 (luncheonette and sandwich shop at the basement and first story, one family at 2<sup>nd</sup> story, and 4 boarders at 3<sup>rd</sup> story).

<sup>43</sup> Biographical information on Harriet and Thomas Truesdell from Ron Kopnicki, Matt McGhee, 19-20.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, 20.

<sup>45</sup> New York City Directory, 1838-39

<sup>46</sup> New York City Directory, 1839-40; Brooklyn City Directory, 1839-40. The Truesdell's Brooklyn Heights

house at 14 Hicks Street was demolished for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

<sup>47</sup> Between 1840 and 1850, the Truesdells lived at 11 Liberty Street, 113 Johnson Street, and 14 Willoughby Street, all locations several blocks north of the Duffield Street house; none of these earlier residences still stand. Brooklyn City Directories, years 1839 to 1850; Perris, 1855.

<sup>48</sup> *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* May 8, 1844.

<sup>49</sup> Kopnicki, McGhee, and Gough, 11, 22. Membership records have not been found that connect the Truesdells with any particular church in New York City or Brooklyn.

<sup>50</sup> Kings County Office of the Register, *Index to Deeds*: Liber 248, 403 (June 5, 1851). Robert G. and Mary A. Bonnell to Harriet L. Truesdell.

<sup>51</sup> New York State Census, (1855). In 1855 there was a servant named Elizabeth Harris, age 19, Black, who was born in North Carolina and had been living in New York for two years. The United States Census, Kings County (1860) shows one servant at the house, Ann Breckon from Nova Scotia. Elizabeth Harris was no longer there.

<sup>52</sup> McCarthy, 115.

<sup>53</sup> Kopnicki, McGhee, and Gough, 21.

<sup>54</sup> William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) from Massachusetts, was an uncompromising leader in the abolitionist movement who promoted immediate and uncompensated emancipation.

<sup>55</sup> The Rhode Island Anti-Slavery Convention was held in Providence, February 1836. AKRF, S-10.

<sup>56</sup> Kopnicki, McGhee, and Gough, 24.

<sup>57</sup> "Providence Ladies Anti-Slavery Society" *The Liberator*, April 15, 1835. [theliberatorfiles.com](http://theliberatorfiles.com)

<sup>58</sup> Newman, 50.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, 56.

<sup>60</sup> As told in Walter M. Merrill and Louis Ruchames, eds., *The Letters of William Lloyd Garrison, Vol. 2* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1971), 350.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, 378, apparently the same trip.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, 614. Kopnicki, McGhee, and Gough, 25-26.

<sup>63</sup> Merrill and Ruchames, Vol. 4, 321.

<sup>64</sup> "First of August: Speeches of Judge Culver, Wm L. Garrison..." *New York Daily Times*, August 2, 1855, 1.

<sup>65</sup> The years included 1853, 1855, 1860, and 1862. AKRF, S-10.

<sup>66</sup> United States Census, Kings County, New York, (1910).

<sup>67</sup> Kings County Office of the Register, *Index to Deeds*: Liber 4029, 172 (April 1, 1921); Matilda W. Truesdell (Thomas, Jr.) to Samuel A. Dunn. Later that year, the property was sold to Louis Abeloff, October 21, 1921 by Fred C. Robbins and Benjamin Traktman who in turn bought it from Samuel A. Dunn. Matilda W. Truesdell was the wife of Thomas Truesdell, Jr., the son of Thomas Truesdell and his second wife, Janet Margery Gunn.

<sup>68</sup> 1932 Certificate of Occupancy, Department of Buildings, New York City.

<sup>69</sup> 1933 Certificate of Occupancy, Department of Buildings, New York City.

<sup>70</sup> Kings County Office of the Register, *Index to Deeds*: Liber 7246, 267 (January 10, 1948).

<sup>71</sup> In 1993 it is listed as a 1-3 family/store & office building. Department of Buildings, New York City.

<sup>72</sup> AKRF, Addendum to Research Report, "My Oral History by Joy M. Chatel, n.p.; "Mama Joy Chatel Passes Away," *Brooklyn Downtown Star*, January 16, 2014.



# Findings and Designation

Harriet and Thomas Truesdell House

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and the other features of this building and site, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Harriet and Thomas Duffield House has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City, New York State and the nation.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark 227 Duffield Street and designates Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 146 Lot 15 as its Landmark Site, as shown in the attached map.



**227 Duffield Street, Brooklyn**  
Jessica Baldwin, January 2021





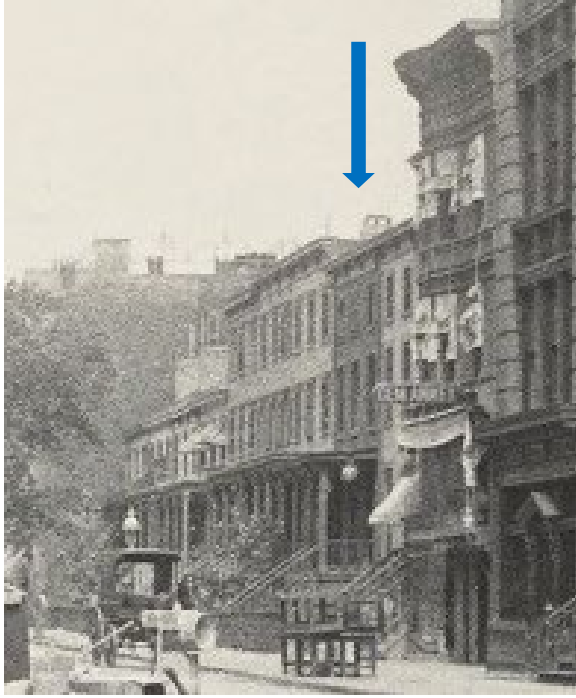
Front Facade, 227 Duffield Street, Brooklyn  
Jessica Baldwin, January 2021



**North Facade**  
**227 Duffield Street Brooklyn**  
Jessica Baldwin, January 2021



**Rear Facade (East)**  
**227 Duffield Street, Brooklyn**  
Jessica Baldwin, January 2021



**View of Duffield Street** (looking Northeast)  
**Fulton Street and Duffield Street, Brooklyn**  
September 9, 1910  
Subway Construction Collection,  
New York Historical Society



**227 Duffield Street**  
1940s Tax Department Photographs, 1939-41  
Municipal Archives, City of New York



PROVIDENCE, April 15, 1835.

Mr. WM. LLOYD GARRISON :

Dear Sir,—Agreeably to previous notice, GEORGE THOMPSON addressed a numerous meeting of the ladies of this city yesterday afternoon, at the Pine-street Baptist meeting-house, preparatory to the formation of a Female Anti-Slavery Society. After an eloquent appeal by this great Apostle of Liberty to his fair audience in behalf of the oppressed and degraded in our land, the motion was put by Rev. Mr. Blain, that it was expedient to form a Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, which was carried without a dissenting vote. The annexed Constitution was adopted and signed by ONE HUNDRED AND SIX Ladies, who generously subscribed the sum of eighty-six dollars and thirty cents ; after which, the Society was organized by appointing the following Ladies as officers for the ensuing year :

Mrs. Lucy Blain, *First Directress*; Mrs. Williams, *Second do.*; Mrs. Sarah R. Simonson, *Third do.*

Miss Anna Lockwood, *Corresponding Sec.*

Miss Mary C. Goss, *Recording Sec.*

Mrs. Harriet L. Truesdell, *Treasurer.*

Mrs. Lydia Brown, Mrs. E. H. Cowell, Mrs. Rachel W. Healy, Mrs. Catherine Benson, Miss Abby Thurber, Mrs. Lydia Cady, Miss Eliza R. Little, Miss M. Farnum, Miss Eliza L. Reed, Miss Sally M. Goddard, Mrs. Abigail Fuller, Miss Fanny Paine, Mrs. Eliza S. Chace, *Managers.*

The Liberator, April 15, 1835

Mrs. Harriet L. Truesdell, Treasurer

# New-York Daily Times.

**FIRST OF AUGUST.**

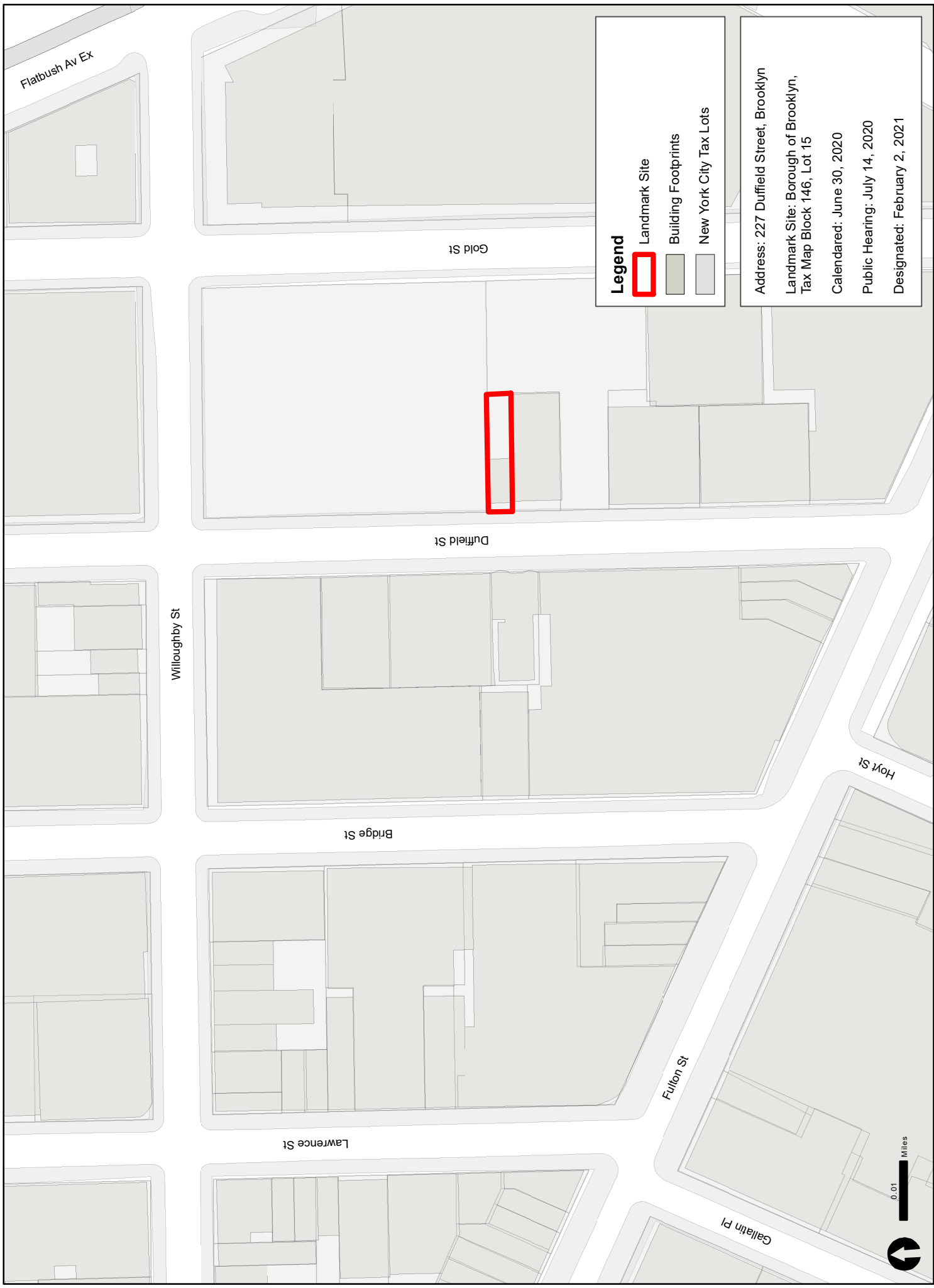
**Anniversary of Emancipation in the  
West Indies.**

**PIC-NICS AT MORRIS' GROVE AND CLIFTON PARK**

**Speeches of Judge Culver, Wm. L. Gar-  
rison and Others.**

**NOTABLE MEN IN THE AUDIENCE.**  
At 12 o'clock the meeting was reopened. We then noticed on the ground, beside the smaller fry, such good Anti-Slavery men as ROLAND JOHNSON, Esq., and OLIVER JOHNSON, of course, Mr. LAUREN WETMORE, Hon. HENRY W. WOLCOTT, of New-Jersey, Mr. THOS. TRUESDALE, a cotton merchant of New-York, with his family, and JOSEPH POST, of Westbury, L. I.

New York Daily Times  
August 2, 1855, Page 1



**Legend**

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

Address: 227 Duffield Street, Brooklyn  
 Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn,  
 Tax Map Block 146, Lot 15  
 Calendared: June 30, 2020  
 Public Hearing: July 14, 2020  
 Designated: February 2, 2021

