



IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated June 27, 2019, from the Executive Director of Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the designation of the Audre Lorde Residence, in the Borough of Staten Island, on private land (Block 516, Lots 32), as a New York City Landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on June 18, 2019 (Designation List 513/LP-2642).

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of any 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.

On June 18, 2019 the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated the Audre Lorde Residence as a City landmark. The landmark site is located at 207 St. Paul’s Avenue (Block 516, Lot 32) on an interior lot on the east side of St. Paul’s Avenue between Clinton Street and Taxter Place in the Stapleton neighborhood of Staten Island, Community District 1.

The Audre Lorde Residence is one of six buildings that the LPC designated as individual landmarks for their historical significance to the LGBT community. On the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots and coinciding with World Pride NYC, LPC recognized these sites as places associated with groups and individuals that helped move forward the LGBT civil rights movement by creating political and community support structures and by bringing LGBT cultural expression into the public realm.

Constructed in 1898, the Audre Lorde Residence was designed by prominent Staten Island architect Otto Loeffler in the neo-Colonial style, an architectural style popularized in the late 19th century that sought to revive elements of classic Colonial architecture. Located within the St Paul’s Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District, the house was constructed during a period when several undeveloped tracts of in the neighborhood were developed with Queen Anne, Shingle-style and Colonial-style homes. Audre Lorde, a critically-acclaimed novelist, poet, essayist and feminist, owned and resided in the home from 1972 to 1987.

According to the LPC, the Audre Lorde Residence has remained a significant example of neo-Colonial architecture. It is distinguished by its roofline and open porch, featuring turned columns and a pediment with sunburst decoration. The house features a cross gable roof, a single projecting angled bay at the first and second stories, and a full-width wooden porch on brick supports, featuring lattice-work screened base, tapered columns, wooden railings, wood steps and platform, shed roof, and triangular pediment with sunburst and swag-decorated friezes. The main entry features a historic paneled wood double-leaf door with a molded surround. Windows have molded surround and, and retain historic one-over-one wood sashes. The roof features intersecting gables with closed pediments and overhanging eaves and a brick chimney.

The building remained unchanged until 1931, at which point the front porch was altered, part of the side bay was removed, the side walls were shingled, and the roof was covered with asphalt. In the mid-20th century, aluminum siding was installed. Later alterations include the conversion from one-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling in 2005, and the addition of a two-story wood deck with brick supports, wooden railings, wood steps and platform, and full-width balcony with wood tapered columns and wooden railings.

The house is located in the Stapleton neighborhood within the St. Paul's Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District, a particularly well-preserved residential neighborhood that serves as a significant reminder of both Staten Island's architectural and historic development and the development of the early-nineteenth century to early-twentieth century suburban residential community. The surrounding area is characterized by one- and two-family detached residences. Other landmarked buildings are proximate to the proposed landmark, including St. Paul's Memorial Church and Rectory, designated in 1975; Public School 15 (Daniel D. Tompkins School), designated in 1996; the Mary and David Burgher House, designated in 2010, and the Caleb T. Ward Mansion, designated in 1978.

This area is mapped with an R3X zoning district, which permits single- and two-family homes up to a maximum residential floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.50 (0.6 with attic allowance) for residential buildings and 1.0 for community facilities. The Audre Lorde Residence has a total gross floor area of 2,363 square feet on a 5,952-square-foot lot, generating a built FAR of 0.40. Pursuant to Section

74-79 of the Zoning Resolution, no transfer of development rights is permitted in R3X zoning districts. Pursuant to 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution, landmark buildings or buildings within Historic Districts are eligible to apply for use and bulk waivers upon application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The subject landmark does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution. In addition, the Commission is not aware of any conflicts between the subject landmark designation and projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark.

MARISA LAGO, *Chair*

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