



**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

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**LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION CONSIDERS NINE STATEN ISLAND SITES
AND 582 PARK SLOPE BUILDINGS**

*Staten Island Armory and Episcopal Become Landmarks, and Six Structures on the SI Advance
Towards Designation, As an Expansion of the Park Slope Historic District Gets Under Way*

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously designated Christ Church, its rectory and parish house in New Brighton and the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry



Brigade Armory in Castleton Corners as individual New York City Landmarks. The Commission also agreed to formally consider on a plan to enlarge Brooklyn's Park Slope Historic District by 582 buildings, and held public hearings on proposals to designate seven sites on Staten Island as individual landmarks.

"As today's actions attest, preserving more of Staten Island's history and architecture remains front and center of the commission's agenda," said Commission Chairman Robert

B. Tierney. "The church and armory are outstanding examples of the borough's rich heritage and we are committed to protecting many more of them."

The proposed **Park Slope Historic District Extension** would encompass 564 rowhouses and apartment buildings, mostly constructed in the 1880s, on both sides of 7th and 8th avenues between 7th and 15th streets and the west side of Bartell Pritchard Square, adjoining Prospect Park. The existing Park Slope Historic District, designated in 1973, consists of 1,975 buildings and is the third largest historic district in the City. A date for a public hearing was not immediately announced.

In other business, the commission held public hearings on proposals to give landmark status to the former headquarters of the **Brooklyn Union Gas Company**, a c. 1914 Neo-Classical style office building at 180 Remsen St. in downtown Brooklyn, and seven sites on Staten Island. They include the **Rossville A.M.E. Zion Church** at 584 Bloomingdale Road, and three cottages (**565 Bloomingdale Road House**, **569 Bloomingdale Road House** and the **Coleman House** at 1482 Woodrow Ave.) in the borough's Sandy Ground section, one of New York City's few communities founded by freed slaves in the 19th century, and an important stop on the Underground Railroad. The remaining three are the **W.T. Garner Mansion**, in West Brighton, a c. 1860, Second Empire style residence at 355 Bard Ave. that housed a school and a hospital, the **Lakeman House**, House, a c. 1683 Dutch Colonial style farmhouse at 2286 Richmond Road in Dongan Hill and the **Abraham L. Merrill House**, c. 1858 vernacular style saltbox farmhouse at 29 Cottage Place in Port Richmond.

Descriptions of Christ Church and the armory follow below:

Christ Church Complex, 72-76 Franklin Ave., New Brighton



Christ Church was established at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Fillmore Street in 1849 by several prominent Episcopalian residents of New Brighton. The existing neo-Gothic structures within the complex – the church (completed 1904), parish house (left, completed 1907) and rectory (completed 1879) – replaced several earlier buildings on the site and were constructed to accommodate the growing congregation, one of the most prestigious on Staten Island in the early 20th century.

Isaac Pursell, a Philadelphia architect who specialized in churches and other institutional buildings, designed the church, parish house and connecting cloister. The 2 ½-story

rectory was originally designed by New York architect Henry M. Congdon in the Queen Anne style, and remodeled by Staten Island architect William H. Mersereau in 1909.

Set on a wide expanse of lawn, the three buildings are joined by cloisters and covered walkways and arranged around a quiet courtyard that suggests an English medieval church close. Faced in granite, limestone and cast stone, the cross-shaped church features a massive, crenellated tower, buttresses, porches and rich stained-glass windows.

Designed to harmonize with the church, the two-story parish house is clad in rusticated gray granite and has a stone and timber-framed gabled entrance porch, asymmetrically placed chimneys, arched window openings and a bell gable. It was constructed for educational, social and athletic functions.

The rectory, also two stories, was redesigned and moved to face the church to form a quadrangle with the parish house. Featuring stone porches and bay windows, the rectory is faced in stucco and embellished with timber elements, evoking a late-medieval Tudor character that's in keeping with the style of the parish house and church.



“This picturesque complex is a rare example of neo-Gothic ecclesiastical design at the turn of the 20th century, and is reminiscent of a medieval church close in the English countryside,” said Chairman Tierney. “It appears to be the sole surviving example of this type on Staten Island.”

Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory, 321 Manor Road



Commonly known as the Staten Island Armory, the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory is the first National Guard armory constructed on Staten Island. Completed in 1927 and designed in the Castellated style, it was one of only three armories built statewide in the 1920s and one of the last completed in New York City.

The brick-faced building, which contains drill halls, meeting rooms and space for weapons and ammunition storage, was designed by

Harold H. Werner and August P. Windolph, who were known primarily for their designs of public bathhouses, such as the East 54th Street Public Bath and Gymnasium in Manhattan.

Resembling a medieval fortress, the armory features patterned brick work, stepped brick lintels, a large entrance opening crowned by a segmental arch and projecting buttresses.

“The armory’s long, brick façade and rounded towers make it one of Staten Island’s signature buildings,” said Chairman Tierney. “Unlike most of the armories constructed in densely developed neighborhoods elsewhere in New York City, the Staten Island armory rises majestically up from a broad lawn in a quiet suburban neighborhood.”

The Headquarters Troop of the 51st Cavalry Brigade traces its origins to a cavalry troop that was Staten Island’s only National Guard unit when it was organized in 1912. It remains a National Guard installation, housing a tactical unit of the 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division.

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 27,000 buildings, including 1,259 individual landmarks, 110 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 100 historic districts and 16 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. Under the City’s landmarks law, considered among 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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