



## NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Robert B. Tierney  
Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **WILLIAMSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH COMPLEX NAMED A NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK**

*Commission Cites J.C. Cady-Designed Church, School and Parsonage for Their Architectural, Cultural and Historic Distinction*



The City's Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to name as a landmark the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church complex, an architecturally distinctive ensemble of three late 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque Revival-style buildings constructed to serve the then-burgeoning German immigrant population in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Located at the 334 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street at Rodney Street and completed in 1885, the complex, which is surrounded by an iron fence, occupies a prominent corner lot and consists of a church with a four-story bell tower, a three-story parsonage and a two-story school and chapel building attached to the east side of the sanctuary. The red-brick and terra cotta-faced buildings were designed by Josiah Cleaveland (J.C.) Cady, a well-known architect who was also responsible for the American Museum of Natural History and the original

Metropolitan Opera House, as well as other churches and institutions such as hospitals and public baths.

St. Paul's was founded at another location on South First Street and Rodney in 1852, and was the second German Lutheran church to be established in Williamsburg. The church currently ministers to a large Latino congregation.

"The substantial size and cohesive design of the prominently sited church complex make a powerful statement along a quiet, residential block," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "Constructed over 125 years ago by an institution that played a central role in the lives of the people who lived nearby, the church complex continues to serve as a visual and spiritual anchor for the community to this day." (r: c.1949 rendering, courtesy of Brooklyn Public Library)

The church's most striking feature is the corner bell tower, which is capped by a slate and copper roof and has a large round-arched entry with brick and terra-cotta moldings and ornate iron columns. Other features of the church include multiple wood-framed, stained-glass windows and a gable-fronted parapet topped by a stone Greek cross. The school's façade also is enlivened by a series of round-arched, wood-framed, stained-glass windows, and has a hipped roof porch, and segmentally arched doors. A high, slate-covered mansard roof that features iron railing distinguishes the two-story parsonage.



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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 1,284 individual landmarks, 111 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 102 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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