



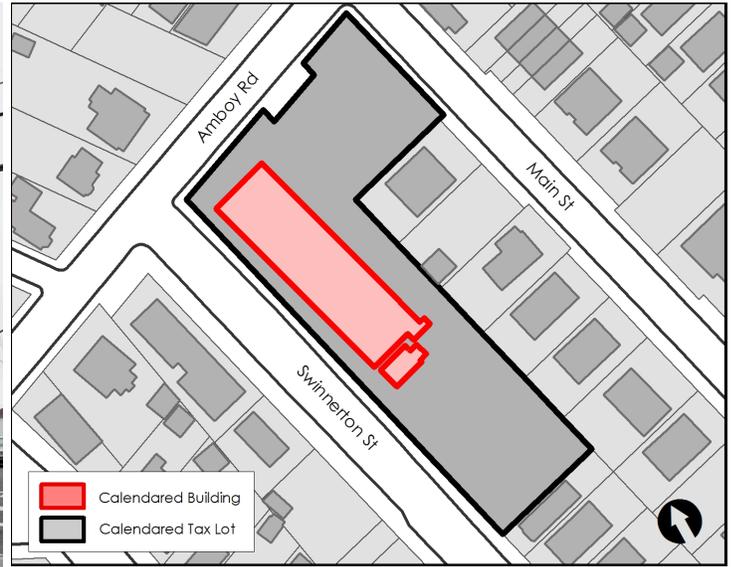
NYC
Landmarks Preservation
Commission

Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties
Staten Island Group 3 Items

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church

7558 Amboy Road, Staten Island
Staten Island Block: 07915; Lot: 0001

Staten Island Community Board 3
Public Hearing Date(s): 10/01/1991



Photos 2014

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Staten Island on **October 22, 2015** and encourages interested parties to submit written testimony in advance of that hearing. Each speaker will be given three minutes total to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within Staten Island Group 3, just particular items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance, and submit their written statements and materials that will be read at the hearing by **October 15, 2015** to backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov.

If you have questions about this property or the hearing process please contact backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building's research file.



**Landmarks Preservation
Commission**

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church Description

Landmark Type: Individual

Built: 1862

Architect: Not determined

Style: Romanesque Revival

Research Staff Hearing Statement (1991)

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 7558 Amboy Road, Tottenville, Staten Island

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was completed in 1862 for a new congregation formed in 1856 in the growing village of Tottenville. This location at the corner of Amboy Road and Swinnerton Street was more convenient than that provided by its parent church, the venerable Bethel Methodist Church, established in Richmond Valley soon after Bishop Francis Asbury's preaching mission there in 1806.

The center section of the gabled brick facade is articulated by a triply-recessed blind round arch trimmed with contrasting coursing; it frames bifurcated round-arched stained-glass windows which surmount a round-arched portal. The smaller flanking windows are similarly framed. The gable cornice and the returns on the face and flanks of the facade are supported on arched corbel tables, a characteristic feature of the Romanesque Revival style. A bell tower was once located at the peak of the facade gable and the original projecting entrance porch has been removed. The side facades of the church have tall round-arched stained-glass windows set within recessed rectangular panels. The contrast between the relatively unadorned side walls and the complexly articulated main facade is heightened by the deeper hue of the facade bricks.

According to the authors of Staten Island and its People (1930), Charles W. Leng and William T. Davis, a new building for Sunday school purposes was built in 1883. It has not yet been determined if the Sunday school building is the present central section of the building -- which appears in c. 1898 photograph -- extending along Swinnerton Avenue, or the small freestanding wood-frame structure at the rear of the lot. The rear section of the church building is a twentieth-century addition. The L-shaped site is occupied by a parking lot adjacent to the church.

When dedicated, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was a building quite unlike the earlier Methodist churches on Staten Island because of its masonry construction and its relatively sophisticated design. Today the church remains a striking feature of Tottenville's town center.