

HARRISON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT STATEN ISLAND

Located in Stapleton, Staten Island, the proposed Harrison Street Historic District (aka "The Nook") is a rare surviving mid-to-late-19th-century residential village enclave in New York City and a significant reminder of the period when Stapleton was an important business center and transportation hub and one of the most populous villages on Staten Island. The proposed district includes 43 single-family and two-family residences (and ancillary structures) and one church located on Harrison Street and nearby sections of Quinn Street, Brownell Street, and Tompkins Street in a quiet cul-de-sac between Broad Street, one of Stapleton's main thoroughfares, and the Seaman's Retreat, a major Staten Island institution. The buildings within the proposed district consist of both frame and masonry structures, most dating from the 1840s to the early 1900s, and include examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Gothic Revival, and Colonial Revival Styles. One of the most architecturally distinguished buildings in the proposed district is the brick and stone three-story plus basement house at 53 Harrison Street, built for inventor-businessman Henry Warth in 1880, which is Second Empire in form but employs an elaborate polychromy usually associated with Germanic architecture of the period. The former 1st Presbyterian Church, now Mt. Sinai United Christian Church-Stapleton Campus at 2 Tompkins Street of 1894 is a Dutch Colonial Revival building with stepped gables, quoined window surrounds, and a crenellated corner tower. Unusual for 19th century Staten Island in the density of its residential construction and for the variety and quality of its architecture, the proposed Harrison Street is a significant reminder of the architectural and historic development of Staten Island.

