



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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News Release

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK IN STATEN ISLAND AND AN HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION IN MANHATTAN

On **March 30, 2004** the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate the H.H. Richardson House and the Murray Hill Historic District Extension.

H.H. Richardson House (45 McClean Avenue)

“New York City is so fortunate to have the house where pioneering architect Henry Hobson Richardson lived and worked,” said Robert B. Tierney, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. *“This is a gem on Staten Island.”*

Henry Hobson Richardson was one of the most important and influential American architects of the nineteenth century. The unique style of architecture he developed was not only named after him, but was itself influential on later European and American developments. Spanning the time period between Victorian picturesque eclecticism and the modern era, his work reflected various contemporary architectural currents while moving toward the simplification and clarity of design inherent in modernism.



Richardson built the house at 45 McClean Avenue for himself and his family in Arrochar, on Staten Island in 1868. The Richardson family lived there from 1869 until 1874 when they moved to Brookline, Massachusetts so that Richardson could supervise the construction of Trinity Church in Boston. Set on a hill overlooking the harbor, the house incorporates an assortment of spaces, projections and picturesque details enhanced by the surrounding landscape. The steep, slate-covered mansard roof is topped with intricate iron cresting to emphasize its height and irregularity. Tall brick chimneys extend above the top of the roof for a further sense of the picturesque. Although the building has been altered, the original roofline, roof cresting, cornice brackets and dormer features still exist. This building survives as one of only two in New York City attributable to Henry Hobson Richardson.

Murray Hill Historic District Extension

“Designating these extensions unifies the existing Murray Hill Historic District and adds to the neighborhood’s sense of place,” said Robert B. Tierney, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The Murray Hill Historic District extension consists of two areas with a total of 12 buildings built between 1855 and 1950. These two groups connect the two segments of the existing Murray Hill Historic District and contribute to Murray Hill’s history as one of the city’s premier residential districts. Primarily constructed between 1863 and the 1920s, the houses in this extension reflect the history of New York City rowhouse design and, through their residents, portray important aspects of New York City’s social and cultural history during the second half of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. The houses in the extension, together with the existing historic district, survive as a cohesive enclave creating a distinct sense of place.



The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency responsible for designating and regulating New York City’s landmarks.