



**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ALICE AND AGATE COURTS HOMEOWNERS CHEER NEW LANDMARK
STREET SIGNS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS**



Landmarks Preservation Commission Robert B. Tierney and Council Member Albert Vann joined two dozen residents of the Alice and Agate Courts Historic District on Sept. 18 for a ceremony to celebrate the installation of a pair of terra cotta landmark street signs and recognize five homeowners who received federally funded grants to repair and restore their handsome rowhouses along the cul-de-sac streets.

The distinctive signs, which mark the boundaries of historic districts throughout the City, were installed by the City's Department of Transportation at the intersection of Alice Court and Atlantic Avenue, and Agate Court and Atlantic Avenue in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. The grants, totaling \$84,000 and ranging from \$12,000 to \$20,000, were funded through the Commission by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban and Development's Community Development Block Grant program.



"None of this would be possible without the participation of the residents and owners of this important district, or without the incredible leadership of Council Member Vann," Chairman Tierney said at the ceremony.

The Commission voted unanimously on Feb. 10, 2009 to approve the designation of the Alice and Agate Courts Historic District, an enclave of 36 Queen Anne-style rowhouses that were constructed between 1888 and 1889 on the north side of Atlantic Avenue between Kingston and Albany avenues.

The row houses were developed as rental properties by Florian Grosjean, a Swiss-born industrialist whose Woodhaven, Queens-based company manufactured metal utensils, pots, pans, sinks and other wares. The streets were named for Grosjean's daughter, Alice

Marie and for “agate ware,” the enamel-coated iron products that were made by his company, Lalancé & Grosjean.

Walter M. Coots, the architect of other rowhouses and apartment buildings in Brooklyn, designed the residences in the district. The buildings feature conical-roofed corner turrets, projecting bays, carved stonework, elaborate ironwork and stained glass windows.



Jacqueline Bolling (pictured left, with Chair Tierney and Council Member Vann), the chairwoman of Community Board 3’s landmarks committee and recipient of one of the five restoration grants, helped to spearhead the two-year effort to save the distinctive collection of buildings.

Standing at the foot of a stoop of a red-brick residence on Alice Court on a cloudy, chilly morning, Ms. Bolling said she planned to use the funding to remove paint from the building’s cornice, repair the stoop and install a new front door and a window. The work is expected to be completed in June 2010.

She added that it was important to her and her neighbors to leave a legacy for future generations.

“The fruits of our labor and our spirit will be on these streets,” Ms. Bolling said. “We laid down the foundations, and our children, and our children’s children will be the beneficiaries of that. We’ve paved the way for their future.”

As part her blessing of the refreshments served after the sign unveiling, Lynette Christian McRae, a resident of Agate Court, offered another reason for preserving the 19th century character of the two streets. “We can’t take it with us,” she said.

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 25,000 buildings, including 1,239 individual landmarks, 110 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks and 97 historic districts in all five boroughs. Under the City’s landmarks law, considered 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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