

CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH II HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

The proposed Crown Heights North II Historic District is located directly south of the existing Crown Heights North Historic District in Brooklyn, and contains some of the borough's finest and most exquisitely detailed row houses, attached houses, freestanding residences, institutional buildings, flats buildings and elevator apartment buildings dating from the middle of the nineteenth century to the 1930s. A showcase of the work of architects who played an important role in Brooklyn's development, including George Chappell, Axel Hedman, W. M. Coots and Frank Helmle, the district is among Brooklyn's most architecturally distinguished areas, retaining some of the borough's most beautiful and well-preserved residential



streets, and featuring a broad array of outstanding residential architecture in popular late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth century styles including the neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Renaissance, Dutch Renaissance, Colonial, Medieval and Tudor Revival styles.

The proposed district is bounded by Bergen Street and the existing Crown Heights North Historic District to the north, Brooklyn Avenue to the east, Eastern Parkway to the south, and Nostrand Avenue to the west, and consists of approximately 610 buildings.

Large-scale residential development in the proposed district took off following the opening in 1888 of the Kings County Elevated Railway, which ran through the area, then known as Bedford, along Fulton Street, and terminated near the Brooklyn Bridge. Between 1887 and 1910, hundreds of exceptional freestanding, attached, and row houses were constructed in the area. One of the earliest freestanding houses in the proposed district is the Queen Anne-style house at 834 Prospect Place, designed by W.M. Coots' and completed in 1887. At the turn-of-the century improvements in transportation and the high price of real estate encouraged the construction of flats and apartment buildings. Among the many fine examples in the extension is Shampans & Shampans' 1921 Tudor Revival style apartment building at 770 St. Mark's Avenue. Serving the residents of late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Crown Heights North were a number of churches and other institutions. These include the Early Christian Revival style St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church (1913) by the noted architect Frank Helmle, and the Gothic Revival Style Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal Home (1888-89) by Mercein Thomas.

Little architectural development has occurred in the proposed Crown Heights North II Historic District since the 1930s. Today, over a century after the major architectural development of Crown Heights North began, much of the area's historic character remains unchanged, and buildings of unusual distinctiveness fill the area, reflecting the innovative quality and beauty of Brooklyn's late nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century architecture.