



**Landmarks Preservation  
Commission**

Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair

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**CHESTER COURT APPROVED AS A NEW YORK CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT**

*Commission Approves Landmark Status for Tudor Revival Style Houses in Brooklyn*



(New York)-The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously approved the designation of the Chester Court Historic District in Brooklyn. The new district consists of 18 Tudor Revival style houses built in 1911-12. Chester Court is an unusually early grouping of row houses inspired by English medieval architecture that is strikingly unchanged from its early-20<sup>th</sup>-century appearance.

The houses are set in two opposing rows along a cul-de-sac, along with an original brick wall at the end of the block.

The rows were designed and built by Peter J. Collins, a

prominent Brooklyn architect and developer who was born and raised in Brooklyn and served as the borough's Superintendent of Buildings.

The Chester Court houses are among the earliest Tudor Revival style row houses in the borough, if not the entire city. Their design was inspired by the renowned timber-framed "black-and-white" or "maggie" buildings of Chester, England, which primarily date from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and from the "Black-and-White Revival" of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The houses remain remarkably well-preserved, as they retain their original clay-tile roofs, and many retain their historic wood doors and windows. The wall at the end of Chester Court, which is constructed of red brick matching that of the Chester Court Houses, screens out the adjacent Brighton subway line and contributes to the sense of the district as a quaint neighborhood of its own.

"The court plan of this handsome district was both practical and prestigious," said Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. "It allowed developers to fit more houses on a parcel than they could with a traditional linear row and provided residents with a sense of living in a private enclave removed from urban traffic and noise."

Chester Court's houses are faced with Flemish-bond red brick at their first stories and stucco with false half-timbering above, alternating square-headed openings at their first stories and angled and straight-sided oriels at their second stories.

The Chester Court Historic District is the 113<sup>th</sup> New York City Historic District.

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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 approximately 31,729 buildings and sites, including 1347 individual landmarks, 117 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 112 historic districts and 20 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered among 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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