

## **PROTESTANT REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH OF FLUSHING (BOWNE STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH)**

143-11(143-19) Roosevelt Avenue (aka 38-01 Bowne Street), Queens

Queens Block 5022 / Lot 01 in part

Built: 1891-92

Architect / Builder: G. E. Potter (attributed) / Edward Richardson

Style: Romanesque Revival

Actions: Calendared on September 23, 2003, Special Backlog Hearing October 8, 2015

Originally built for the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church, this building is significant as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style, especially notable for its prominent corner tower, decorative brickwork, and opalescent stained-glass windows. Several of the windows were designed by artist and congregant Agnes Fairchild Northrop of Tiffany Studios.

The citizens of Flushing formally declared religious freedom with the Flushing Remonstrance of 1657. Today, this multi-denominational church continues this tradition of faith and tolerance and reflects the cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity of the community.

The Reformed Dutch Church denomination traces its roots to the founding of New Netherland as a Dutch colony, with many additional Reformed congregations established throughout the metropolitan area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As the town of Flushing developed and prospered, a Reformed congregation was established in 1842. It quickly outgrew its original building, and in 1873 the congregation acquired a lot at the northeast corner of today's Roosevelt Avenue and Bowne Street. Nearly twenty years later, construction began in October of 1891 and the church was dedicated November of 1892.

George E. Potter, an architect with a practice in Springfield, Massachusetts, and later in Hartford, Connecticut, most likely designed the church. He was responsible for approximately 25 churches in New England and Long Island. One of his commissions, the Memorial Hall in Monson, Massachusetts, is similar in design to the Flushing Reformed Dutch Church. Edward Richardson (1848-1921) of Flushing was the building contractor. He was born in Wales, worked as a carpenter's apprentice, and then came to Flushing in 1871. As a successful businessman, he was active in both the building trades and real estate.

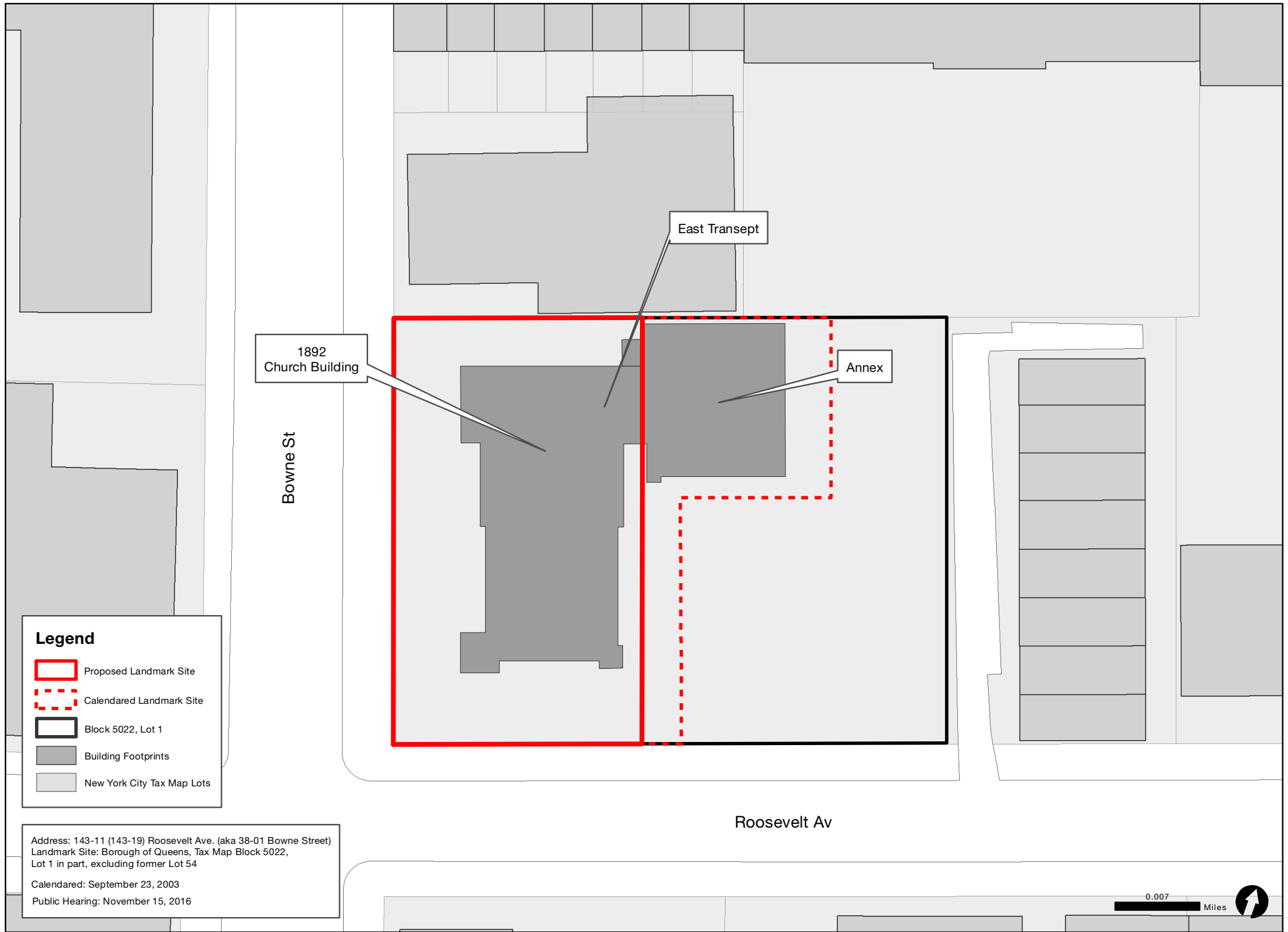
The Romanesque Revival style, and in particular architect H. H. Richardson's versions of the style, was popular for churches during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a modern adaptation of a medieval aesthetic. The church features arched openings, intricate brickwork, stone details and a prominent corner bell tower. One of the Richardsonian features of this church is the contrast of the massive bell tower with the low squat arcade along the front elevation. In addition to the main auditorium assembly space, the building incorporates rooms at the north end for a chapel, Sunday school, library, and upstairs kitchen.



In 1974 the Reformed Church merged with the First Congregational Church of Flushing. The building is now associated with the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, and since 1988 with the Taiwanese Zion Christian Church. In addition, the New York Yeram Church, an independent Korean congregation not affiliated with a particular denomination, has its services and offices at the Bowne Street Community Church. The church congregations have continued to diligently and sensitively maintain the church building, one of downtown Flushing's most prominent and significant religious structures.



Front (south) Facade along Roosevelt Avenue



1892 Church Building






East Transept

Annex

Bowne St

Roosevelt Av

**Legend**

-  Proposed Landmark Site
-  Calendared Landmark Site
-  Block 5022, Lot 1
-  Building Footprints
-  New York City Tax Map Lots

Address: 143-11 (143-19) Roosevelt Ave. (aka 38-01 Bowne Street)  
Landmark Site: Borough of Queens, Tax Map Block 5022, Lot 1 in part, excluding former Lot 54  
Calendared: September 23, 2003  
Public Hearing: November 15, 2016

0.007 Miles 