

# Boerum Hill Historic District Extension

**Borough of Brooklyn**

**Proposed Action:** Calendared: October 31, 2017; Public Hearing: May 8, 2018;  
Proposed for Designation: June 26, 2018



**Boerum Hill, LPC**

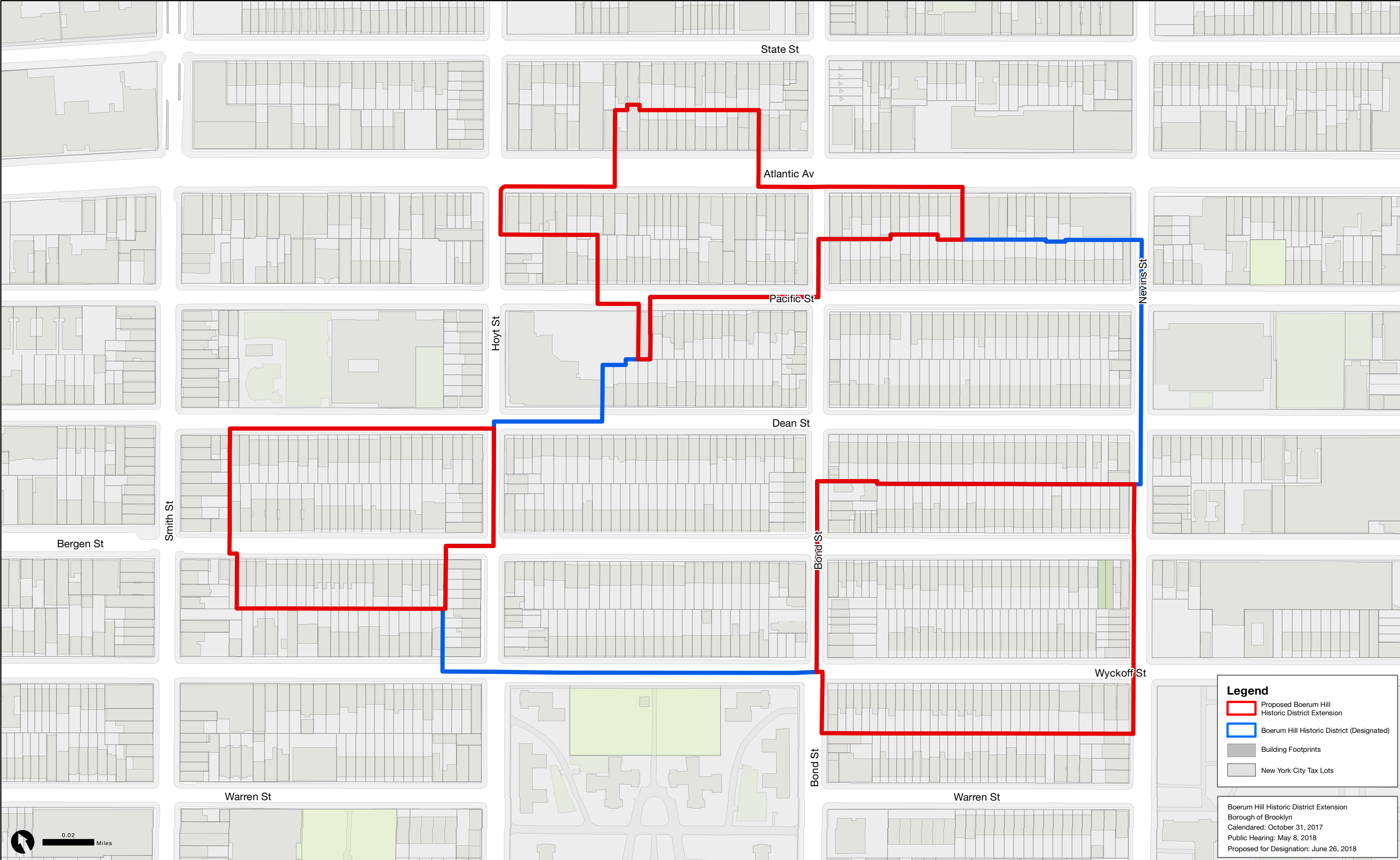
The Boerum Hill Historic District Extension consists of approximately 288 buildings in three distinct areas adjacent to the Boerum Hill Historic District designated in 1973. The western section includes the blocks of Dean and Bergen streets between Smith and Hoyt streets; the northern section includes the portion of Atlantic Avenue between Hoyt and Nevins streets, and Pacific Street between Hoyt and Bond streets; and the eastern section includes blocks of Wyckoff and Bergen streets between Bond and Nevins streets. Built to serve a diverse community of merchants, waterfront laborers, and Wall Street commuters, the Boerum Hill Historic District Extension is architecturally and culturally significant for the ways in which it reflects Brooklyn's history and architecture.

The Boerum Hill Historic District Extension was built during two periods of neighborhood development. In the late 1840s-1850s, industrial growth along the South Brooklyn waterfront spurred the construction of speculative row houses into the western part of Boerum Hill. At the same time, new transportation infrastructure such as the Long Island Railroad's Atlantic Avenue branch and a local horse car line offered residents much faster access to the South Ferry and Manhattan. Atlantic Avenue began to serve as a primary center of commercial activity during this period. The second phase of residential development in the Boerum Hill Historic District Extension occurred after the Civil War in the eastern section, coinciding with the opening of the Gowanus Canal and the arrival of factories and warehouses just south of the neighborhood. Known as "North Gowanus" for much of its early history, the area was renamed "Boerum Hill" by a local neighborhood association in the 1960s.

The blocks included in the Extension share a similar development history and architectural styles and character as the Boerum Hill Historic District. The single-family row houses and the row house-scale residential buildings with historic storefronts dating from the 1850s to the 1870s were mostly designed in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. More eclectic styles appeared in the 1880s as the last remaining empty lots were filled, including a row of Second-Empire-style houses on Bergen Street, and neo-Grec-style apartment buildings scattered throughout the Historic District Extension. This mix of styles and the handsome decorative details applied to relatively modest structures reveal the aspirations of local residents and developers, many of whom had arrived as immigrants pursuing the American dream.

With its proximity to the South Brooklyn waterfront and the Gowanus Canal, and the importance of Atlantic Avenue, the Boerum Hill Historic District Extension tells the story of how the combined forces of industry and commerce drove the development of Brooklyn in the 19th century. Its architecture is representative of this period of residential design, and its intact streetscapes retain a distinct and cohesive historic character.

(Proposed) Boerum Hill Historic District Extension



**Legend**

- Proposed Boerum Hill Historic District Extension
- Boerum Hill Historic District (Designated)
- Building Footprints
- New York City Tax Lots

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