

New York Public Library, Tremont Branch

1866 Washington Avenue, Bronx
Tax Map Block 2918, Lot 1

Built: 1905

Architect: Carrere & Hastings

Style: Neo-Federal

Proposed Action: Propose for Public Hearing January 23, 2024



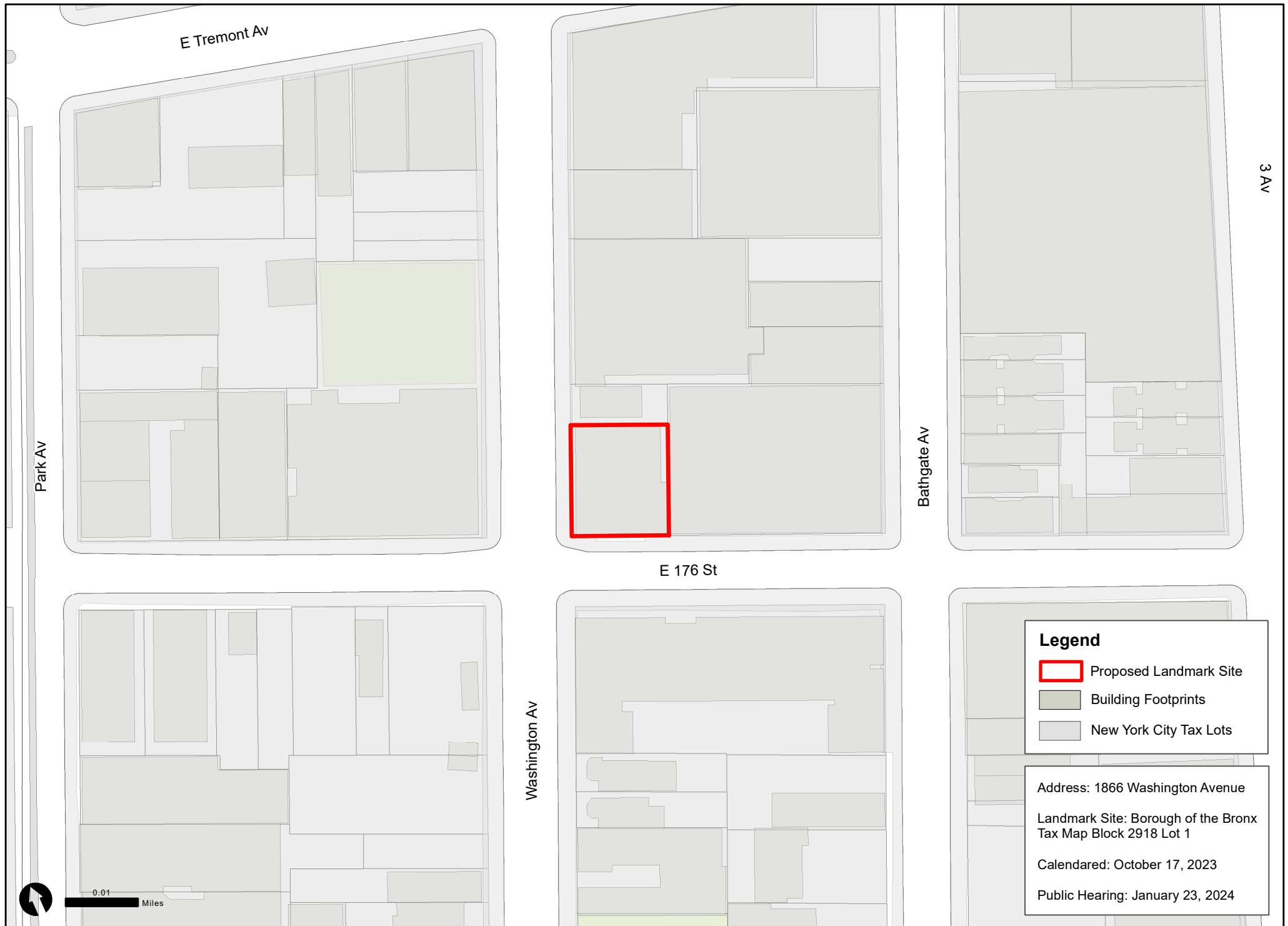
Tremont Library

Located in the Tremont neighborhood of the Bronx, the Tremont Branch of the NYPL is one of 67 circulating libraries constructed for the city's library system funded by Andrew Carnegie. The Tremont Library is located at 1866 Washington Avenue and was constructed in 1905. The library was designed by the prominent firm of Carrère and Hastings, who designed 14 Carnegie-funded libraries in New York. This elegant and well-preserved library has served the community of Tremont for 118 years.

The Tremont Branch building was originally designed with five bays and was extended by one bay between 1915 and 1916 using leftover funds from the Carnegie donation. The extension increased space for book circulation and the children's reading room. The now six bay 2-story building is a Classical Revival corner brick building in the rural style of Carrère and Hastings' library designs, strikingly similar to the Hudson Park library. The building features a limestone trim, with limestone keystones on the first floor in the arched windows, a projecting band course between the first and second floors, limestone enframements of the second-floor window, denticulated cornice, and parapet panels. Due to the extension, what originally was a central entrance is now an asymmetrical entrance. The building also has a side entrance and a basement entrance on 176th St, as well as a partial third story for the janitor's apartments

Since the turn of the 20th century, Tremont has been a multicultural neighborhood, to which the librarians at Tremont strived to serve. In 1908, the librarians established one of the first girls reading clubs in the branch system. The librarians of Tremont regularly met with students, helped young people set up groups for reading and film clubs, taught classes to young children, taught English to new immigrants, and held meetings for community members. The librarians of Tremont regularly expressed their ideas for programs and ways to reach non-native English speakers better and recorded their insights on the advantages the library provided to immigrants learning English. The Tremont Branch became heavily involved in literacy education for the neighborhood, in the 1950s becoming the foremost branch library for books, literature, and programs on Jewish culture, history, and the Hebrew and Yiddish languages, and later, in 1967, participating in the South Bronx Library Project, which funded Spanish-language books, programming, and bilingual staff as the number of residents from Puerto Rico increased in the area.

The Tremont Branch of the New York Public Library is a pristine example of a Carrère and Hastings Carnegie library which has historically served as a crucial community space for the changing demographics of Tremont.



0.01 Miles