

Public School 15 Annex

362 Schermerhorn, Brooklyn
Tax Map Block 174 Lot 1

Built: 1889

Architect: James M. Naughton

Style: Romanesque Revival

Proposed Action: Proposed for Calendaring December 2, 2025



362 Schermerhorn, HABS Survey 2025

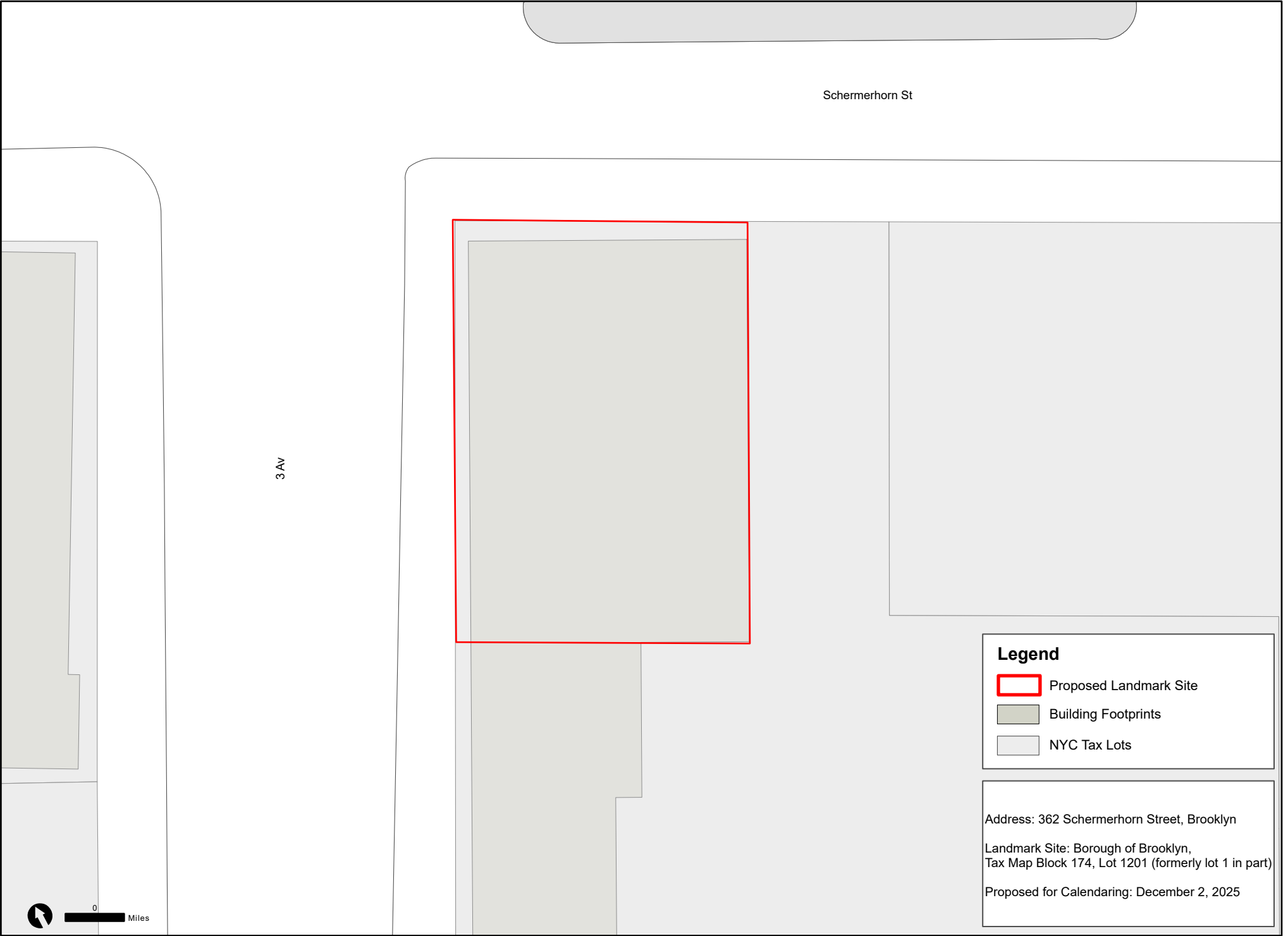
The Public School 15 Annex at 362 Schermerhorn represents a distinctive design by James Naughton, the prolific superintendent of public school buildings in Brooklyn in the last quarter of the 19th century. Set on a prominent corner at Third Avenue and Schermerhorn Street, it was constructed in 1889 as an extension to the old Public School 15 building (1859) to serve the growing population of Brooklyn. From the mid-1920s to the 1940s, the Public School 15 Annex was home to the Brooklyn's Girls Continuation School, one of the largest schools of this type in the city.

The building was constructed by Frank G. Kelly, a prominent contractor for Brooklyn schools and designed by James Naughton. Naughton was an Irish immigrant who apprenticed as an architect with several firms before continuing his studies in Cooper Union. He held various city positions until 1879, when he was elected superintendent of buildings for the Brooklyn Board of Education, where he was responsible for the construction of over 100 schools.




When the Public School 15 Annex was built in 1889, it was described as "one of the handsomest schools in the city." The school is a three-story red-brick Romanesque Revival building with Queen Anne details, featuring decorative brownstone, brick corbelling, and iron work. The building's ornate facade, elevated entrance, and original iron dormer complete with a pediment and finials reoriented the Public School 15 complex to face Schermerhorn, just steps away from the elevated train.

The annex functioned as part of Public School 15 until the mid-1920s when the Brooklyn Girls Continuation School took over two floors in the annex and placed its headquarters here. By 1929, the Girls Continuation School was permanently located at 362 Schermerhorn Street and used the entire building. Continuation Schools, a type of vocational educational institution, were significant in advancing child labor laws, by requiring continuing education for children under the age of 18 no matter their working status. In the Girl's Continuation School at 362 Schermerhorn, students learned skills such as garment manufacturing, nursing, home, bookkeeping, homemaking, and beauty. The school later became an adult continuation school funded by the W.P.A., and a Department of Education center for child psychology.

The Public School 15 Annex is a handsome well-preserved building that is a unique design of James Naughton's and a significant piece of New York City's public education history.



Legend

-  Proposed Landmark Site
-  Building Footprints
-  NYC Tax Lots

Address: 362 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn,
Tax Map Block 174, Lot 1201 (formerly lot 1 in part)

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