

## Jacob Dangler House

441 Willoughby Avenue (aka 441-443 Willoughby Avenue; 163-167 Nostrand Avenue) Tax Map Block 1758 Lot 1

**Built:** 1897-98

**Architect:** Theobald Engelhardt

Style: Chateauesque

Action: Calendared June 7, 2022; Public Hearing July 12, 2022





The Jacob Dangler House was designed by Theobald M. Engelhardt and built at the turn of the century for the prominent Brooklyn merchant Jacob Dangler, and later served for many years as the home of the United Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star. Located at the northeast corner of Willoughby and Nostrand avenues in Brooklyn, it is a fine example of the Chateauesque style that stands out in its neighborhood. In addition to its historical significance representing the turn-of-the-century residential development of Bedford Stuyvesant, it also has a cultural significance as the long-time home of a masonic organization made of almost exclusively of African American women.

Jacob Dangler was an Alsatian immigrant who became a successful meat packer and provisions merchant in Brooklyn, establishing a thriving business along Myrtle Avenue that afforded him the opportunity to build this home for himself and his family. The house, designed by Theobald Engelhardt and built 1897-98, was located within walking distance of Dangler's place of business at 734 Myrtle Avenue.

Following Dangler's death in 1939 the house was offered for sale by the family as appropriate for institutional use. Since then, its most significant use has been to serve as a club house for the Oriental, later United, Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, a masonic organization which while open to both men and women has been almost exclusively made up of African American and African Caribbean women. It has also served as a center for community meetings and events.

Minor alterations to the house include infill in the entrance porch and the addition of a one-story utilitarian extension at the rear of the house. However, these alterations do not detract from the overall integrity of its fine architectural design nor from its historical and cultural significance.

