



Landmarks Preservation Commission

Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties Manhattan B Group 2 Items

D.G. Yuengling Brewing Co. Complex

1361 Amsterdam Ave., 461 West 126 St., 423 West 127 St., 439-449 West 128 St., 454 West 128 St., 460 West 128 St., Manhattan
Manhattan Block: 01967, Lot: 0045; Block 01967, Lot 0085; Block 1967, Lot: 0089

Manhattan Community Board 9
Public Hearing Date(s): 07/15/1991;
10/29/1991



Photos 2014

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Manhattan on **November 12, 2015** and encourages interested parties to submit written testimony in advance of that hearing. Each speaker will be given three minutes total to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within Manhattan B Group 2, just particular items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance, and submit their written statements and materials that will be read at the hearing by **November 5, 2015** to backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov.

If you have questions about this property or the hearing process please contact backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building's research file.



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**D.G. Yuengling Brewing Co. (later Bernheimer
& Schwartz Pilsener Brewing Co.) Complex**

Landmark Type: Individual

Buildings Description

Built: Late 19th - Early 20th Centuries

Architect: Various

Style: American Round Arch

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D.G. YUENGLING BREWING CO. (LATER BERNHEIMER & SCHWARTZ PILSENER BREWING CO.) COMPLEX BUILDINGS, 1361-1369 Amsterdam Avenue, aka 492-498 West 128th Street, and 484-490 West 128th Street [Lot 40]; 461-467 West 126th Street, aka 451 West 127th Street, and 473-479 West 126th Street [Lot 45]; 439-449 West 127th Street [Lot 50]; 423-427 and 433-437 West 127th Street [Lot 60]; 454-458 West 128th Street [Lot 85 in part]; and 460-470 West 128th Street [Lot 89 in part], Manhattan

A reminder of the period when brewing was a major industry in New York, this complex of nine buildings with frontages on Amsterdam Avenue, West 126th Street (formerly Lawrence Street), West 127th Street, and West 128th Street, is the larger and more architecturally distinguished of the two groups of brewery buildings surviving in Manhattan from the thirty-two breweries in operation at the turn of the century. (The other buildings are 646 and 662 First Avenue which once formed part of the Kips Bay Brewery.)

As early as the mid-1860s, a brewery, known first as the Excelsior Brewery and later as the Manhattan Brewery, was in operation at the northeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 128th Street. In 1875, this property was acquired by a consortium of investors headed by David G. Yuengling, Jr., the son of a prominent Pennsylvania brewer. Under Yuengling, the brewery underwent a considerable expansion, extending eastward on 128th, southeastward along Lawrence Street (now West 126 Street), and eastward along 127th Street. In 1897, the Yuengling firms in Pennsylvania and New York merged with the John F. Betz Brewery of Richmond, Virginia, and the New York brewery complex was renamed the John F. Betz Manhattan Brewery. In 1903, it was sold to Samuel and Max Bernheimer, Anton Schwartz, and Arthur Friedland -- the Bernheimers having recently sold their interest in the nearby Lion Brewery which had been founded by their father Emanuel Schmid in the 1850s. The Bernheimers immediately undertook a major renovation and expansion of the brewery. The older buildings on Amsterdam Avenue were replaced, the buildings on West 128th Street were modernized and enlarged, and new buildings were constructed on West 126th Street and West 127th Street. During Prohibition the buildings were adapted for use by a variety of businesses including a dairy, cold storage warehouse, and laundry. All but two of the buildings, 454-458 West 128th Street and 460-470 West 128th Street, were returned to brewery use by Horton's Pilsner Brewing Company during the 1930s. The last building to be added to the complex, 423-427 West 127th Street, was constructed for Horton's in 1934-36.



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The complex is comprised of the following buildings:

No. 1361-1369 Amsterdam Avenue, aka 492-498 West 128th Street, and No. 484-490 West 128th Street -- These two buildings, which have now been joined, have a complex history involving several building campaigns. The building at No. 484-490 was originally two four-story buildings -- No. 484-486, constructed by the Manhattan Brewery as an ice house in 1874, and No. 488-490, erected as a brewery for ale by the D. G. Yuengling Brewing Company in 1876-77. Both buildings were designed by Anthony Pfund, an architect active in New York between 1857 and 1897, who specialized in the planning of brewery buildings, working for such well-known companies as the Ehret, Ruppert, and Hupfel Breweries in Manhattan and the Ebling Brewery in the Bronx. In 1912-13, under Bernheimer & Schwartz the two buildings were joined and raised two stories to create the present structure. The architect of this alteration, was Louis Oberlein, a specialist in brewery design, who had previously designed buildings for the Bernheimers' Lion Brewery. Oberlein was also responsible for the design of No. 1361-1369 Amsterdam Avenue which was constructed in two stages for Bernheimer & Schwartz -- the lower three stories in 1905-06, and the upper three stories in 1911-12. Though they worked almost a quarter century apart, the two architects employed a common vocabulary for their designs. The facades were articulated into bays by pilaster strips and stories were arranged into groupings by stone string courses. Windows are either round-or segmental arched and are set off by stone impost, keystones and skewbacks or dentiled moldings. Extensive use is also made of corbeling and recessed panels and the roofline is generally broken by a central pediment.

Anthony Pfund was also responsible for No. 454-458 West 128th Street, a two-story stable building constructed for the Yuengling Brewery in 1876, which is especially noteworthy for the use of a cross-gabled center bay and the boldness of the decorative treatment.

Oberlein's other works in the complex are No. 473-479 West 126th Street and No. 461-467 West 126th Street aka 451 West 127th Street. These were also constructed as separate buildings and have now been joined. No. 473-479 is almost identical in articulation to the adjacent 1361-1369 Amsterdam and was probably constructed in 1911-12. No. 461-467 was built in 1904-05. Among its notable features are the eyebrow moldings enriched by dentils over the windows.



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No. 460-470 West 128th Street was designed by architect Paul F. Schoen and constructed for the Yuengling Brewery in 1883-84. A two-story brick structure it was originally used for the production and storage of ale. It has five large segmental-arched vehicle entrances on the ground story and segmental-arched windows at the second story. Faced with tawny orange brick, its facade is enriched by patterned brick courses at the springing of the ground story arches, beneath the second story window sills, and at the roofline.

No. 439-449 West 127th Street was originally constructed in 1912-14 as an addition to No. 461-467 West 126th Street, though the buildings are now on separate lots. Originally begun by Louis Oberlein, this building appears to be largely the work of Fred Keeler, a younger architect who was retained by Bernheimer and Schwartz in 1912. Built as a skeleton frame daylight factory, it is more open and structurally articulated than the earlier buildings in the complex. Like them it is faced with brick trimmed with stone and has projected piers and recessed spandrel panels.

The windowless structure at 437 West 127th Street was built to contain malt bins which extended through several stories. Originally part of the building at 439-449 West 127th Street, it is now joined to 433 West 127th Street, a one-story storage building raised to three stories for the Horton Pilsner Company by architect Frank Rooke in 1934-36.

No. 423-427 West 127th Street is a loft building designed for Bernheimer and Schwartz by Frederick Keeler in 1912-13. Though characteristic of early twentieth-century industrial architecture, the design echoes many of the features of the earlier buildings in the complex including the use of projected piers and a gabled parapet.