



News Release

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**LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES
AN HISTORIC DISTRICT IN STATEN ISLAND AND TWO INDIVIDUAL
LANDMARKS IN BROOKLYN**

On **June 29, 2004** the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate the St. Paul's Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District, a distinct enclave of residential buildings on Staten Island, and the New York and New Jersey Telephone and Telegraph Building and the Avenue H Subway Station, both in Brooklyn.

St. Paul's Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District, Staten Island

"This is a wonderful neighborhood with an amazing collection of historic houses in a variety of architectural styles," said Robert B. Tierney, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. *"The topography and streetscape contribute to the area's distinct sense of place."*

The St. Paul's Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District is an unusually well-preserved residential neighborhood that is a significant reminder of the architectural and historic development of Staten Island and an excellent example of an early-nineteenth century to early-twentieth century suburban residential community. Composed primarily of wood-frame freestanding houses, this type of neighborhood has become increasingly rare in New York City. The district encompasses ninety-two buildings located on or to the west of St. Paul's Avenue, a major thoroughfare that curves around Ward Hill and Grymes Hill, linking the villages of Tompkinsville and Stapleton.



New York and New Jersey Telephone and Telegraph Building (81 Willoughby Street)

"This imposing Beaux Arts building at a corner location in downtown Brooklyn symbolizes the importance of the earliest era of what is now called the telecommunications industry," said Robert B. Tierney.

Founded in 1883, the New York and New Jersey Telephone and Telegraph Company served the ever-increasing populations of Long Island, Staten Island and northern New Jersey. The fast growth of the city and the company created the need for a large headquarters building for this local service provider of the Bell system. This



elaborate and elegantly designed Beaux-Arts style building served as a major statement of the company's expansion in the area, providing offices and telephone switching in the heart of Brooklyn's expanding business district. Designed by leading Brooklyn architect Rudophe L. Daus, the building's distinctive ornamentation establishes a strong presence on this busy street corner. Daus drew on his classical French training to create a dramatic structure, epitomized by the rounded corner accented by an elaborate cartouche and a deep, projecting cornice. These design features are balanced by oversized arches resting on engaged columns and broad rustication of the lower floors. The telephone-related motifs which frame the main entryway on Willoughby Street add a whimsical touch.

Avenue H Subway Station (802 East 16th Street, Brooklyn)

"This charming and unique building is a rare survivor from an era marked by an extraordinary surface-transit system. I am pleased that this structure will be preserved and protected for present and future generations," said Robert B. Tierney.

The Avenue H Subway Station is a rare, wood, above-ground station that has a distinctive flared and hip roof with unusually wide overhanging eaves supported by piers. The structure was built in 1905-06 for developer Thomas Benton Ackerson as a real estate office to sell properties in the adjacent planned residential community of Fiske Terrace. In 1908, after it had fulfilled its original purpose, the structure was converted into a train station for the Brighton Beach Railroad, which contributed to the significant suburban development of the area. Today, the station is served by the Q train, with almost 800,000 passengers passing through the structure annually.



The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency responsible for designating and regulating New York City's landmarks.