



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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FORMER P.S. 90 IN FLATBUSH MAKES THE LANDMARKS GRADE

129-Year-Old Brick School Representative of Brooklyn Neighborhood's Remaining Days as an Independent Agricultural Town

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously approved the designation of former Public School 90 as a New York City landmark, citing its architectural rich architectural, historical and cultural significance. Located at 2274-2286 Church Ave. at the intersection of Bedford Avenue, the school was completed in 1878 and designed by John Y. Culyer, the chief engineer and longtime superintendent of Prospect Park. The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) plans to reopen the building and use it for offices and a business training center.



“When it was built, this school made a strong statement about the importance of public education to a small agricultural village that was aspiring toward urbanity,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “CACCI’s pledge to restore this handsome schoolhouse will help ensure that it once again will serve as an anchor of the community.”

Originally named the Flatbush District No. 1 School, the building’s round arches, symmetrical bays and patterned brick edifice set it apart from the schoolhouses that had been built earlier in Flatbush. These structures were built with wood frames, sided with clapboard, and resembled the residences that had been built around them.

The Flatbush District No. 1 School was the successor to an educational institution in the village that dated back to the 1650s. The building originally accommodated 200 students, but an addition was constructed on its south side in the early 1890s following the growth of Flatbush’s population. The name of the school changed to P.S. 90 after the City of Brooklyn annexed the town of Flatbush in 1894.

P.S. 90 closed in 1951, and three years later, Yeshiva University Boys’ High School moved its Brooklyn branch to the building and remained there until 1967. The building served as the Beth Rivkah Institute, a private school for girls, from 1968 until the 1990s.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to some 24,000 buildings, including 1,181 individual landmarks, 120 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 89 historic districts in all five boroughs. Under the law, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough. There are 11 commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor for staggered three-year terms.