

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

June 28, 2011

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE FORMER ST. CASIMIR'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, PAUL ROBESON THEATRE (40-44 GREENE AVENUE, BROOKLYN) AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

Good morning Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy supports designation of St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church, now the Paul Robeson Theatre.

This property, which is a contributing building in the Fort Greene National Register Expansion District, is worthy of landmark designation on both architectural and historic merits. Despite some minor alterations, the Gothic Revival structure is a powerful presence on this thoroughfare, with its picturesque façade, tower, spire, and stained glass windows intact. Moreover, it is a piece of Brooklyn history and an extraordinary example of adaptive use, having housed several religious denominations, before purchase by Dr. Josephine English, a Brooklyn landmark in her own right, and conversion into a theater.

We are pleased to see this property being heard today and hope that a vote on designation will be forthcoming. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.