

October 26, 2010

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE PARK SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION

Good afternoon, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the Landmarks Conservancy.

“An historic district should be possessed of such a distinctive quality that, on entering it from any side, one should become aware of a distinct, separate neighborhood. Park Slope is just such an area.” This quote from the 1973 Park Slope Historic District designation report applies equally to the area south and west of the District. On entering the extension, by just crossing Eighth Avenue, one encounters the same sense of place found in the designated district.

For nearly 40 years, buildings in the Park Slope Historic District, mostly low-scale historic architecture with residential, commercial, non-profit, and religious uses, have had the protection of the Landmarks Law. The buildings in the extension share much the same history and scale as those streetscapes, in styles typical of the period, from Italianate, Queen Anne, and Romanesque Revival to Beaux-Arts and Neo-Classical. They represent the same story of development in Brooklyn in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and they deserve the same protection.

As the 1973 reports states, “The entire District continues to attract those who appreciate its prime location adjoining Prospect Park, its substantial, well-built houses and its relative tranquility.” This is certainly true of the buildings under consideration today.

We are pleased to join with neighbors, public officials, preservationists, and the Park Slope Civic Council in support of this designation. Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy's views.