

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

July 25, 2011

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE LANDMARKS
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE N.Y.C. CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 324-334 SOUTH 5TH STREET, BROOKLYN AS AN
INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

Good day Chair Lander and members of the City Council. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy is pleased to support designation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church as an individual landmark. The St. Paul's complex, which is composed of the Church, Sunday School and Parsonage, located on a prominent corner lot in Williamsburg, anchors its community with a distinguished architectural heritage and active social programming.

All three buildings in the complex were constructed in 1884-1885 in the Romanesque Revival style with Holland and Philadelphia brick, to the designs of J.C. Cady & Company, architect of many landmarked buildings, including the American Museum of Natural History. Significant features include a 135-foot corner bell tower; the massive Romanesque arch at the ground floor; original geometric leaded glass windows with Tiffany-style "jewels" and one figural window by German-trained George Durham from the 1920s.

Today, the church houses three congregations, totaling about 150 members, who worship weekly at several services. There are English and Spanish Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations. The Sunday school wing is used extensively by the surrounding community for showers, wedding receptions, and christenings. The parsonage is used as a group home by St. Christopher's - Otilie Services for children and Families and the Rodney Street GLBTQ.

The congregation at St. Paul's recognizes the valuable role of its historic buildings, and the Conservancy has been actively involved with the church for several years. We funded a conditions assessment in 2009, which determined that repairs to the tower and roof were the highest priority. Now, landmark designation will qualify the church for a challenge grant of up to \$50,000 for additional work at the tower and roof, as well as a third grant towards the costs of an experienced construction manager to guide these repairs.

We urge you to designate St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church as a landmark. Like so many other historic religious buildings in New York, it is a living symbol of our culture, our community and our history. Designation ensures that this legacy will continue. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.