

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

October 26, 2010

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE WALLABOUT HISTORIC DISTRICT IN BROOKLYN

Good afternoon, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy strongly supports the designation before you today.

Our staff knows this section of Brooklyn well. 69 Vanderbilt has been on our Endangered Buildings list for many years. We have made several visits to individual sites and community meetings in this neighborhood, and worked with the Myrtle Revitalization Project on a Main Street/Historic Properties Fund project in the National Register-eligible historic district.

We are glad to see that the Commission is hearing this designation. This collection of 19th century wood-frame, brownstone, and brick row houses speaks to the diverse styles and materials of Brooklyn's residential development. Especially note-worthy is the large group of pre-Civil War structures, which maintain both their historic low scale and many original details.

As you are probably aware, there is a process underway for designation of a larger historic district on the National Register. It is our hope that building owners in the larger district are able to access resources such as the Conservancy's Historic Properties Fund and the State's homeowner's rehabilitation tax credit to restore these buildings, many of which maintain their historic height, massing, and scale, and that the Commission might revisit these blocks and consider a future expansion of the district.

Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy's views.