

April 16, 2019

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE EMPIRE STATE DAIRY COMPANY, 2840 ATLANTIC AVENUE, BROOKLYN, AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK

The Landmarks Conservancy cannot support this application for a new building to cantilever over the Empire State Dairy Company.

The Empire Dairy complex is the only designated landmark within the East New York rezoning area. It is a robust group of buildings that merited designation for both an association with local history and for its attractive architecture. It served as a distribution center for the Empire State Dairy Company and later for the Borden Dairy. The architects were Otto Strack and Theobald Engelhardt, who was responsible for numerous industrial, residential, and religious buildings in North Brooklyn. The signature feature, two large ceramic tile decorative panels, illustrating pastoral scenes of cows and their herders, in a setting of pastures, streams, and snow-capped mountains, is an exquisite site on Atlantic Avenue.

The proposed new building would hover over the complex and diminish it. The Dairy buildings are very much in need of restoration, and while we appreciate that the proposal would address this issue, the aggressive new construction would be out-of-scale as an addition to the Dairy. We trust that the Commission can work with the owners to find a solution that better honors this landmark.

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