



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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February 14, 2019

Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Lemos McHale,

The Historic Districts Council writes in support of the 76th Street 600 Block Association's request for an historic district in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

76th Street is a manicured block between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, and features Renaissance Revival bow-fronted houses of extraordinary integrity, many with original double-doors. These attractive residences are set back from the street and feature well-maintained front gardens with thoughtful plantings, and the block sits under a canopy of street trees. This block's survival and appearance is due to the close-knit nature of its residents, and their palpable stewardship of their street. Even more remarkable is that these houses and block survived so intact, despite losing fifteen matching homes to the construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway during New York's urban renewal era.

As you are aware, the Bay Ridge neighborhood has begun to seriously consider landmarking as a tool to preserve the pristine blocks that have remained intact in this area for over the past century. In Bay Ridge, the built environment reflects so many different waves of development that it isn't unusual for the style, era, and building type to drastically vary from block to block. As such, it makes a lot of sense in this particular geography for the Commission to explore and consider small districts, as visual cohesion can be difficult to obtain in large swaths. More commonly, nooks of beauty and homogeneity are found tucked away in various places throughout the neighborhood, and 76th Street is one such small block that is very much of its own character and has a distinct sense of place.

Sincerely,



Simeon Bankoff
Executive Director

CC: Louise Gallito, 76th Street 600 Block
Hon. Justin Brannan, Councilmember
Brian Kaszuba, Chair, Brooklyn Community Board 10 Zoning & Land Use Committee