



MOUNT MORRIS PARK COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Mount Morris Park Historic District

- **November 3, 1971:** Original designation of the Mount Morris Park Historic District
- **Early 1990s:** MMPCIA works with NY Landmarks Conservancy and holds meetings with property owners of the proposed Extension to educate on the benefits of being in landmark neighborhood, especially the opportunity for financial grants and loans to cover much-needed exterior work. Landmarks Preservation Commission staff were consulted on considering the proposed extension. Economic hard times were cited as the reason for postponement—not enough writers to document the properties.
- **April 12, 1996:** US Dept of Interior National Register of Historic Places determines that the Mount Morris Park Historic District Boundary Increase (the Extension) meets their criteria and recommends that the properties be considered “locally significant.” The report includes short write-ups of each property. This determination gives the properties located in the Extension financial benefits afforded properties on the National Register of Historic Places. It would seem, therefore, that given the Federal recognition of the Extension’s significance, LPC would consider expediting its local historic designation.
- **January 2010:** Historic Districts Council announces its first annual *Six to Celebrate*, a group of historic New York City neighborhoods that merit preservation attention. The proposed Mount Morris Park Historic District Extension is one of the first six selected.

Over the next two years, MMPCIA works with HDC and The Honorable Bill Perkins office to educate the property owners in the extension and prepare for meetings with Community Board 10. The CB 10 District Manager, Paimaan Lodhi, CB 10 Chair, Henrietta Lyle, CB 10 Landmarks Committee Chair, Betty Dubuisson, and CB 10 Land Use Chair, Stanley Gleaton, agree that the time is long over due for LPC to consider the Mount Morris Park Extension.

In fact, in response to the “growing concerns of the Community regarding preserving Harlem’s rich heritage,” Community Board 10’s Land Use and Landmarks Committee developed a “comprehensive planning document that explores various methods in preserving historic buildings and the built context of the District.” In conducting this study, it was glaringly apparent that when it comes to preservation, Harlem is “under-designated.” In fact, in addition to the two existing Historic Districts in CB 10 (what happened to Astor Row?) and the proposed Mount Morris Part Extension, this report suggested eight additional study areas in CB 10 worthy of preservation attention.

continued

Our Mission: *The Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association is a neighborhood non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to revitalizing and preserving our Historic District and beyond, to fostering an environment of open and active opportunities, and to reflecting a spectrum of voices, ideas and opinions of those who share the neighborhood.*

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- **January 2013:** MMPCIA reaches out to Jenny Fernandez and staff at LPC to meet with the community and continue the Extension discussions. In fact, she provides a draft of the proposed extension.
- **May 2 2013:** At a regularly scheduled General Board Meeting Manhattan Community Board 10 unanimously votes to approve the CB 10 *Comprehensive Preservation Plan*.

A Note on Manhattan Historic Districts:

Since 1966, when the first four Manhattan Historic Districts were designated, 78 additional Historic Districts have been added. Many of these—Chelsea, Carnegie Hill, Gramercy Park, Greenwich Village, Murray Hill, Riverside Drive/West End, Tribeca, Upper East Side, and Upper West Side—have one or more extensions to the Districts. Only Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill in Harlem, first designated in 1974, has extensions added. And one early Harlem Historic District—Astor Row—now seems to be removed from the LPC website list.

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