

JOHN AND ELIZABETH TRUSLOW HOUSE

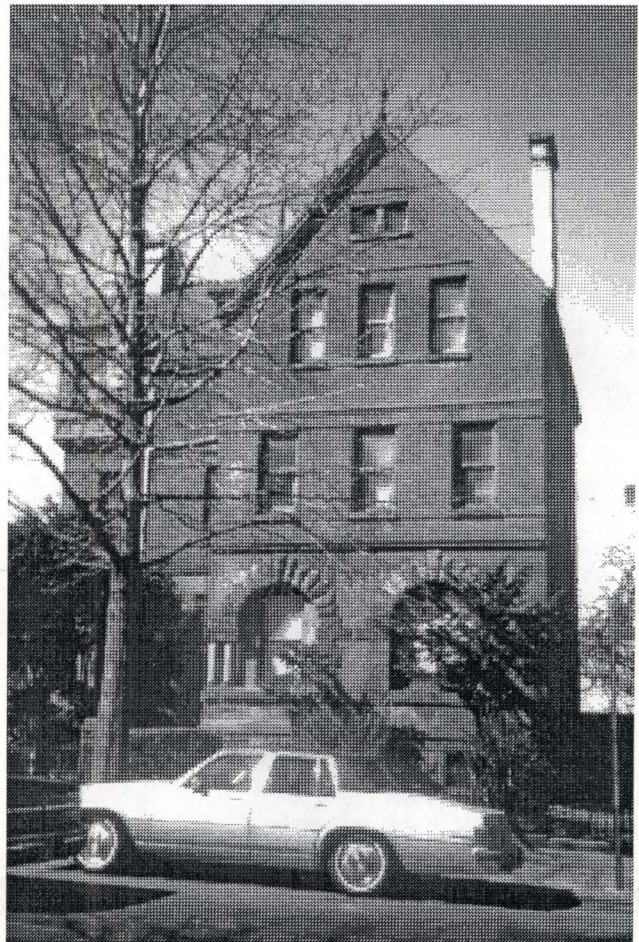
96 Brooklyn Avenue, aka 1331-1343 Dean Street, Borough of Brooklyn
Built 1887-88; architect, Parfitt Brothers

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1208, Lot 47.

On May 6, 1997, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the John and Elizabeth Truslow House, and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 1). Two people, including the owner, spoke in favor of the designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

Summary

The John and Elizabeth Truslow House, erected in 1887-88, is a major work of the prominent Brooklyn architectural firm of Parfitt Brothers and is one of its finest residential designs. The house was constructed during the period when the northwestern section of Crown Heights was developing into one of Brooklyn's most prestigious residential neighborhoods. Complex in its massing with a dynamic rooftop silhouette, the Truslow House is built of red brick with sandstone and granite trim and subtle ornamentation that emphasizes the building's structure. Since its completion, the house has been occupied by a succession of locally prominent Brooklynites and it retains, on the exterior, almost all of its original architectural forms and materials.



DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Development of Crown Heights¹

For much of the nineteenth century, the area that now comprises the northwestern part of the neighborhood of Crown Heights, bounded by Atlantic Avenue on the north, Eastern Parkway on the south, Franklin Avenue on the west, and Albany Avenue on the east, was a rural locale in what was often referred to as East Brooklyn. The area was a portion of the village of Bedford; the Colonial-era settlement of Bedford Corners was located just north of present-day Grant Square, at the junction of Fulton Street and Bedford Avenue.²

The urbanization of Brooklyn began in the 1820s when ferry service connecting the independent cities of Brooklyn and New York became reliable enough for people who lived in Brooklyn to commute to jobs in the business center of Lower Manhattan. The earliest urban development took place in Brooklyn Heights in northwestern Brooklyn, close to the ferry dock at the foot of Fulton Street. As the population of Brooklyn increased, urbanization moved out from Brooklyn Heights, progressing to the east and to the south. Crown Heights, too far east from major mass transit facilities, attracted wealthy Brooklynites who wished to build large, freestanding houses and could afford to own and maintain private carriages that would take them to the ferries.³

Between the late 1870s and early 1880s, a few speculative developers began to invest in the construction of rowhouses in Crown Heights, in anticipation of the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883. Neighborhoods to the west and to the north had already begun their intensive urbanization and it was clear that Crown Heights would soon become a prestigious residential community. Among the earliest rowhouses were groups of wood frame dwellings, as well as more substantial neo-Grec style homes with brownstone fronts.⁴ However, development in Crown Heights was still encumbered by a lack of mass transit.

Major residential construction in Crown Heights did not occur until after the inauguration of service on the Fulton Street elevated railroad line, running from the Fulton Ferry terminal, along Fulton Street (just north of Crown Heights), in 1888.⁵ Between 1888 and 1893 hundreds of exceptionally fine rowhouses, many in the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles, were erected in northwestern Crown Heights, while large mansions were erected on St. Mark's Avenue between

Nostrand Avenue and Kingston Avenue, on large lots that ran through the block (carriage houses were erected on Bergen Street and Prospect Place).⁶ Somewhat smaller freestanding homes appeared on the north-south avenues, especially on Brooklyn Avenue and New York Avenue. Among these was the house erected by John and Elizabeth Truslow in 1887-88.

John Truslow

On June 4, 1887, the undeveloped lot at the northwest corner of Brooklyn Avenue and Dean Street was purchased by Elizabeth K. Truslow, wife of John Truslow, who was, according to the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* "one of Brooklyn's most revered citizens."⁷ Truslow was born on March 4, 1827, on Division Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.⁸ His father, Thomas Truslow, was a coal merchant and had been a New York State Assemblyman. In 1848, John Truslow moved to Williamsburgh in Kings County, and in the late 1850s married Elizabeth Kidder of Baltimore.⁹ Truslow followed his father into the coal business, but later became a manufacturer of stoves with his firm located at 289 Water Street in Manhattan. The Truslow family was among the earliest residents of Crown Heights, residing in a large wooden house at the corner of Brooklyn Avenue and Pacific Street as early as 1870. In 1873, Truslow abandoned the stove business when he was appointed president of the Brooklyn Board of Assessors, a position that he held until 1886. Truslow was also involved in Brooklyn business, church, and philanthropic affairs, notably as a vice president of the Dime Savings Bank, a founder and trustee of the New York Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, and a director of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital, the American Bible Society, the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities, and the Brooklyn Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.¹⁰

In 1887, the year after Truslow retired, he commissioned a new house from the prominent Brooklyn architectural firm of Parfitt Brothers. The firm designed one of its finest Queen Anne style houses for the Truslow family. In February 1892, the census enumerator for New York State recorded the house as occupied by the 65 year old John Truslow and his 57 year old wife Elizabeth, both of whom were born in the United States; their three sons, Robert, a journalist, and Arthur and Walter who were both students; an older woman, Hester

Truslow (possibly John's sister); a missionary from the island of Jamaica named Jane G. Sharpe; and five female servants, one native born and the others immigrants (from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Sweden). The Truslows resided in the house for only eight years. In 1896 the property was sold and the family moved a few blocks away to 131 Herkimer Street. In 1900, Truslow left Brooklyn and moved to Westhampton Beach, Long Island, but he spent time at the Clinton Street house of his daughter Sarah Dickinson, and he died there in 1914.

Parfitt Brothers and the Truslow House¹¹

Parfitt Brothers was among the most successful architectural firms in Brooklyn in the final two decades of the nineteenth century. The firm consisted of three brothers, all of whom were English immigrants. Walter E. Parfitt (d. 1925) was apparently the first of the three to arrive in Brooklyn, immigrating in about 1863. In 1869, city directories list Walter's occupation as "real estate." By 1875, when the Parfitt Brothers firm was established, Walter had been joined by his younger brother, Henry D. Parfitt (1848-1888). The third brother, Albert E. Parfitt (1863-1926), arrived in Brooklyn in 1882 and worked as a draftsman in the firm before becoming a junior partner. At the time that the Parfitt Brothers firm was established, most residential construction in Brooklyn consisted of brownstone-fronted rowhouses and flats in either the traditional Italianate style or the newer neo-Grec variant on this form. Parfitt Brothers designed hundreds of such buildings, including many examples in designated historic districts.¹²

Parfitt Brothers excelled in the design of buildings in the Queen Anne style which it may have introduced into residential architecture in Brooklyn in 1881 with of a pair of red brick buildings with Queen Anne-inspired terra-cotta decoration, located at 472 and 474 Lafayette Avenue between Franklin and Bedford Avenues.¹³ These flats were soon followed by a series of superb single-family homes in the Queen Anne style, notably the Seth Low House (1882; demolished) on the corner of Pierrepont Street and Columbia Heights; the Dr. Cornelius N. Hoagland House (1882) at 410 Clinton Avenue in the Clinton Hill Historic District; the Erastus and Nettie Barnes House (1884; facade stripped) at 316 Clinton Avenue; and the John S. James House (1887) at 9 Pierrepont Street in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District. The Truslow House of 1887 is among the last of this sequence

and, on the exterior, is one of the most intact houses designed by the firm.¹⁴

Parfitt Brothers also pioneered in the design of apartment houses for the middle class in Brooklyn, with the Montague, Berkeley, and Grosvenor, 103, 115, and 117 Montague Street, all dating from 1885, in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District. Besides residential work, Parfitt Brothers was responsible for several Brooklyn civic structures, most notably a landmark firehouse in Bushwick, Engine Company 52 (1896-97; now Engine Co, 252). The firm also designed four prominent Brooklyn churches, the borough's grandest synagogue (Temple Israel, 1890-94; demolished). The four churches are extant -- the Nostrand Avenue Methodist Church (1881) on Nostrand Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Grace Methodist Church (1882) on Seventh Avenue in the Park Slope Historic District, St. Augustine's R.C. Church (1888) on Sixth Avenue in Park Slope (outside of the designated historic district), and the Embury Methodist Church (1894; now the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church) in the Stuyvesant Heights Historic District. Of the firm's many buildings for important Brooklyn hospitals and philanthropic organizations, all have been demolished. The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor (Truslow was a director) commissioned a headquarters building from Parfitt Brothers in 1882, and it may be through this work that Truslow became familiar with the architectural firm.¹⁵ St. Phoebe's Mission at 125 DeKalb Avenue, designed by Parfitt Brothers in 1885, was closely related to the Truslow House in style and massing. Faced in red brick with rock-faced stone trim, the mission building was asymmetrically massed, with high gables, steep roofs, prominent chimneys, and a picturesque silhouette, and apparently had little or no applied ornamental detail, all features of the Truslow House.¹⁶

All of the Queen Anne style residential buildings designed by Parfitt Brothers are faced in red brick and many are trimmed with rock-faced stone, used either at the base or for decorative accents. Most also have terra-cotta detail, such as the pot of sunflowers at the Cornelius Hoagland House, the large flower form at the James House, and the extensive decorative scheme on the upper floors of the three Montague Street apartment buildings. The Truslow House is an exception. Faced with red brick with rock-faced stone trim, it has little applied ornament. Rather, Parfitt Brothers accentuated the massing of the projecting gabled wings that are cut away on the first-story level so that they almost appear to float above this story, and created a striking silhouette of gables, eccentric towers,

finials, and chimneys. Parfitt Brothers provided subtle textural contrasts on the street elevations, with the use of brick, a rock-faced stone base, rock-faced stone voussoirs on the entrance porch, smooth stone lintels and sills, and paneled metal cladding on the square towers that project from the third story. Most of the ornamental detail emphasizes the structure of the building, including subtle bands of raised and molded bricks, corbelled brick, the panels on the towers, and the capitals of the granite columns that support the entrance porch and the gable of the south facade.

Later History

In 1896, Elizabeth Truslow sold the house at 96 Brooklyn Avenue to the Reverend Adolphus J.F. Behrends, minister of the Central Congregational Church (demolished) on Hancock Street near Franklin Avenue, one of the largest and most prestigious congregations in Brooklyn. Behrends died within a few years of moving into 96 Brooklyn Avenue. In 1900, the United States census recorded Behrends' wife, Frances, as the head of the household, living there with two sons, her mother and brother, a niece, and a single Irish servant.¹⁷

In 1902, the executors of Adolphus Behrends' estate sold 96 Brooklyn Avenue to William G. Hoople, a merchant who was a member of Behrends' church.¹⁸ Like Adolphus Behrends, William Hoople did not live long after he purchased 96 Brooklyn Avenue. In 1910, his heirs sold the property to Maria (or Marie) de Angel, wife of South American coffee exporter Alejandro de Angel.¹⁹ The de Angels lived in the house for ten years with their five sons, nine unmarried daughters, two married daughters with their husbands (both in the coffee business), three grandchildren, and six servants -- three women from South America, an African-American waitress, an African-American cook, and an Irish laundress -- for a total of 29 people.²⁰

From 1920 until 1943, the 96 Brooklyn Avenue house was owned by Helen M. McGratty who was married to marble dealer Edward J. McGratty. In 1925, Edward and Helen McGratty lived in the house with their six sons, one daughter, and two Irish servants.²¹ In 1943, the property was sold to Dr. Ethlin Lamos whose estate held the property until 1995. Dr. Lamos used the building as his residence and office and also added apartments on the upper floors. In 1954, he built a one-story addition at the rear and added a third story to a two-story rear wing.

Description

The Truslow House is an asymmetrically-massed three-story structure faced with red brick and trimmed with red sandstone and granite. The building rests on a rock-faced stone base. The building takes the form of two intersecting gabled wings with a tall central chimney. The front wing faces east onto Brooklyn Avenue. A second wing, projecting south towards Dean Street, intersects with the Brooklyn Avenue wing. In addition, there is a two-story rear wing that appears to have had a flat roof. The gables have steep sloping roofs clad with their original rectangular and scalloped slate tiles; the roof ridges are coped with clay tiles. The building is set on a large plot with lawns at the east and south, a yard at the west, and a narrow passage at the north. On the east and south sides, the lot is bordered by a historic iron fence with undulating iron posts and a gate with its original hardware.

Brooklyn Avenue front: On Brooklyn Avenue, the facade of the gabled wing is articulated on the first story by a pair of round-arched openings, each with rock-faced sandstone voussoirs. A third arched opening is located at the corner, on the one-bay-wide southern elevation of this wing, facing towards Dean Street. The two corner arches were originally open and formed an entrance porch that was reached by a stair leading to the arch on the southern elevation. This porch has been enclosed. At the corner, the arches are supported on a trio of granite dwarf columns with foliate capitals and a solid sandstone base. Carved foliate blocks, echoing the column capitals, are located at the springline of the arches facing Brooklyn Avenue.

A projecting sandstone beltcourse separates the first and second stories on the Brooklyn Avenue front and continues around to the Dean Street front. The second and third stories on both street fronts are separated by a single course of raised brick and another course of molded brick. On the second and third stories, the gable end facing Brooklyn Avenue is articulated by three rectangular windows with one-over-one wood sash (all of the windows on the house have one-over-one wood sash). The second-story windows have a sandstone sill that continues as a beltcourse, but the material changes from stone to molded brick. On the third story, the windows have a stone sill, but it is not part of a continuing beltcourse. Splayed brick lintels cap both the second- and third-story windows. Two courses of projecting molded brick run above the third-story lintels. Above the third-story windows is a pair of small square windows separated by a horizontal

wood bar. The small windows have a stone sill and splayed brick lintel capped by molded brick. The gable is edged by a metal denticulated cornice and is capped by a finial with a ball. Above the entrance arch on the south elevation of the gable, facing towards Dean Street, is one rectangular second story window. On the third story, a rectangular window projects above the roofline and is capped by a hip roof with slate shingles and a wrought-iron finial.

Dean Street front: The gable facing onto Dean Street is both wider and deeper than that on Brooklyn Avenue. On the first story, the corners of this gable are chamfered. The projecting corners of the second story are supported by granite columns with foliate sandstone capitals and sandstone bases. A band of smooth sandstone runs between the first and second stories of this wing. The center of the first story of the gable is unornamented brick; a single rectangular window is set to either side and another rectangular window articulates each chamfered corner. The second and third stories are divided into two symmetrical sections by a projecting brick chimney breast with a sandstone corbel in the form of a carved cartouche. The chimney breast is ornamented with corbelled brickwork, a molded brick triangle, molded brick bands, a vertical band of recessed brick, and a brick cap. On the second and third stories, there is a single window to each side of the chimney breast, each with a stone sill and splayed brick lintel. As on the front gable, the Dean Street gable has a

denticulated cornice. A square oriel, with one window on each exterior elevation, projects from each corner on the third story. The oriels are clad in metal with pressed panels. Each has a pyramidal roof with slate shingles and a finial capped by a ball. The east elevation of this wing, facing towards Brooklyn Avenue, has a large rectangular window with a rock-faced stone sill and smooth stone lintel on the first story (the window has been altered by the addition of steel casements and a vertical brick support). On the second story, this section is articulated by two rectangular windows, while on the third story there is a tiny square window in the northern corner that may not be original. On the western elevation of this wing, facing towards the rear yard, there is a single window on the second story.

Rear wing and north elevation: The section of the rear wing facing Dean Street has a large triple window on the first story and two windows on the second floor. A third story was added to this wing in the 1950s and a single-story addition attached to the western side of the wing. In spite of the additions, a shallow projection is visible, with segmental-arch windows and a tall chimney. The west and north elevations of the house are simply detailed with a few window openings. There is a one-story, non-historic garage in the rear yard.

Report prepared by
Andrew S. Dolkart
Landmarks Consultant

NOTES

1. This section is based on New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, *Brooklyn Survey: Crown Heights North Proposed Historic District* (New York: Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1978); Henry B. Howard, ed., *The Eagle and Brooklyn: A History of the City of Brooklyn From Its Settlement to the Present Time* (Brooklyn: Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 1893); and Henry R. Stiles, *The History of the County of Kings and the City of Brooklyn, New York from 1683-1884* (New York: W.W. Mundell, 1884).
2. Most of Crown Heights was located within the large land holdings of the Lefferts family. In 1700, Lefert [sic] Pietersen van Houghwout purchased three acres of land in East Brooklyn. Lefert's son, Jacob Lefferts added extensive additional property to this initial land holding, including much of present-day Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant, and built a house near Fulton Street. The land passed to Jacob's son Leffert Lefferts and it was his heirs who began to sell off parcels of the property in the 1850s. From the earliest period of settlement, the Crown Heights area had a significant African population, due to the fact that the Dutch settlers often had large numbers of slaves. According to Ellen M. Snyder-Grenier, by 1790, 60 percent of all families living in Kings County were slave owners, the highest proportion of slave owners in any county in New York State. In 1698, 15 percent of the county's population was slaves; in 1737, 24 percent, and in 1771, about 33 percent. See Ellen

Snyder-Grenier, *Brooklyn: An Illustrated History* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996), 21. In fact, it was in Crown Heights that Weeksville and Carrville, two settlements of free blacks were established in the 1830s. Four houses from the Weeksville settlement survive at 1698-1708 Bergen Street, and are now designated landmarks and part of a museum of African-American history.

3. Several of these residential buildings still survive, including the large transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style wooden house at 1375 Dean Street, the frame Italian villa at 1183 Bergen Street, and, most prominently, the Victorian Gothic-style Dean Sage House on the northeast corner of St. Mark's and Brooklyn avenues, a magnificent stone structure designed in about 1868 by Russell Sturgis. The Sage house is now a senior citizens center.
4. The bridge reduced commuting time to New York City since it took far less time to cross the East River by bridge than by ferry and bridge traffic was not affected by inclement weather. The opening of the bridge led developers to invest in the construction of new homes in neighborhoods such as Crown Heights and Park Slope that had been considered too inconvenient in earlier decades.
5. Service began between Fulton Ferry and Nostrand Avenue on April 24, 1888; on May 30, 1888, service was extended to Sumner Avenue; on August 20, 1888, it was extended to Utica Avenue. The Fulton Street Line eventually continued east into Brownsville. See Joseph Cunningham and Leonard De Hart, *Rapid Transit in Brooklyn: A History of the New York City Subway System, Part II* (privately printed, 1977), 13.
6. Fine examples are extant on Pacific Street, Dean Street, and Bergen Street between Bedford Avenue and Albany Avenue. St. Mark's Avenue became one of the wealthiest residential streets in Brooklyn and the area was often referred to as the St. Mark's section of Brooklyn. The extent of development in northwestern Crown Heights is illustrated in *Atlas of the City of New York* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1893), plate 26.
7. "John Truslow Dies In His 88th Year," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Dec. 24, 1914, p. 3. Besides this obituary, information on John Truslow and the Truslow family was found in "John Truslow" [obituary], *New York Times*, Dec. 25, 1914, p. 11; New York State Census of Kings County, 1892, 24th Ward, 5th Election District, p. 3; Brooklyn City Directories, 1878-1900; John Truslow's will, Brooklyn Surrogate Court (6933-26); Kings County Conveyance Records, block 1208 lot 47, liber 1742, p. 313 (1887) and liber 4, p. 207 (1896).
8. In the 1820s the Lower East Side was still an affluent neighborhood of single-family homes inhabited primarily by native-born Protestant households.
9. In 1848 Williamsburgh was an independent city that did not merge with the city of Brooklyn until 1855.
10. In 1889-92, the New York Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church erected a monumental new building designed by J.C. Cady & Co. on the east side of New York Avenue between Dean Street and Bergen Street, only a block from the Truslow House.
11. Much of the discussion of Parfitt Brothers is based on Andrew S. Dolkart, "Important Regional Architects in Post-Civil War Brooklyn: A Study of Montrose Morris, William Tubby, Parfitt Brothers, and George Chappell," unpublished study funded by a grant from the Educational Facilities Laboratory's Architectural Fellowships Program, 1983. Other histories of the Parfitt Brothers firm are, "Parfitt Brothers," *An Historical and Descriptive Review of the City of Brooklyn* (New York: Historical Publishing Co., 1883), part 1, 158; "Parfitt Brothers," *Half-Century's Progress of the City of Brooklyn* (New York: International Publishing Co., 1886), 154; Henry D. Parfitt obituary, *American Architect and Building News* 24 (July 14, 1888), 13; "Walter E. Parfitt," *History of Architecture and the Building Trades of Greater New York* (New York: Union History Co., 1899), vol. 2, 363-364; F.N. Levy, ed. "Albert E. Parfitt," *American Art Annual* (Boston: Noyes Platt & Co., 1900), vol. 3, 123; *Key to the Architects of Greater New York* (NY: Forbes & Co., 1900), 49-50; *Key to the Architects of Greater New York* (NY: Forbes & Co., 1901), 53-54; Albert E. Parfitt

obituary, *New York Times*, Oct. 19, 1926, p. 29; Henry F. and Elsie R. Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (LA: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970), 453-454; William Lee Younger, "The Parfitt Brothers," *Gaslight Gazette* 1 (Mar. 1972), 10-14; and New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, *Engine Company 252 Designation Report* (LP-1931), report prepared by Andrew S. Dolkart (New York: City of New York, 1995).

12. Among the neo-Grec style rowhouses and flats designed by Parfitt Brothers are 40-56 Garden Place (1880) and 303-315 Hicks Street (1881) in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District; 12-22 Clifton Place (c. 1878) in the Clinton Hill Historic District; 417-425 Greene Avenue (1979), 492-504 Greene Avenue (1883), 1022-1028 Greene Avenue (1884), 353-363 Jefferson Street (1883), 366-372 Monroe Street (1876), 466-484 Putnam Avenue (1883), all in Bedford-Stuyvesant; 552-558 Carlton Avenue (1877), 761-77 Washington Avenue (1884), and 453-467 St. John's Place (1884) in Prospect Heights; and 224-226 St. John's Place (1883), 416-426 Third Street (1880), 365-369 Fourth Street (1883), 357-363 Fifth Street (1883), 336-344 Seventh Street (1880), 414-424 Ninth Street (1876), and 426-434 Ninth Street (1881) in Park Slope (some in the Park Slope Historic District).
13. The *Brooklyn Advance* 4 (Aug. 1881), 189, noted that "terra cotta has been more largely used in this building than in any other private building yet erected in Brooklyn." The terra cotta was provided by the Boston Terra Cotta Company.
14. Parfitt Brothers also designed several Queen Anne style rows, including those at 841-849 President Street (1886) and 18-20 Fiske Place (1889) in the Park Slope Historic District; 321-325 Fourth Street (1884) in Park Slope, outside of the historic district; and 244-254 Gates Avenue (1885) in Bedford-Stuyvesant. In 1896, Albert Parfitt left the firm, opening his own office and becoming heavily involved in the development of Bensonhurst-by-the-Sea. He designed wood-shingled houses in Bensonhurst and in other areas of southwestern Brooklyn, including Bath Beach and Sea Gate.
15. The building was located at 108 Livingston Street; see Stiles, *The History of the County of Kings*, 974-975 and "The New Building of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor," *Brooklyn Advance* 7 (September 1882), 17-18.
16. St. Phoebe's Mission is illustrated in *Views of Brooklyn* (Portland, Maine: L. Nelson & Co., 1905), n.p.
17. Behrends was born in Holland in 1839 and came to the United States in 1845 with his father, a Lutheran minister. Behrends graduated from Denison University in Ohio and Rochester Theological Seminary before being ordained as a Baptist minister in 1865. In 1873, he became the first Northerner to receive a Doctor of Divinity degree from Richmond College in Virginia. By 1876, Behrends had changed his doctrinal views and became a Congregationalist, preaching at the Union Congregational Church in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1883, Behrends moved to the Central Congregational Church. See Howard, *The Eagle and Brooklyn*, 625, and United States Census, 1900, Assembly District 24, Enumeration District 417.
18. Hoople was a native of Canada, born near the St. Lawrence River. In 1862, he moved to New York to work in his uncle's leather business, Van Nostrand & Hoople. After his uncle retired, William Hoople maintained the business until the late 1890s when he established the firm of Hoople & Androvette, dealers in tanning materials and dyes, with offices at 250 Front Street. See Howard, *The Eagle and Brooklyn*, 881, and Frank W. Norcross, *A History of the New York Swamp* (New York: Chiswick Press, 1901), 172-173.
19. Conveyance records record the transfer of the property to Maria de Angel; census records refer to Marie D. Angel.
20. New York State Census, 1925, Assembly District 18, Election District 8, p. 13.
21. New York State Census, 1925, Assembly District 17, Election District 31, p. 5.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the John and Elizabeth Truslow House has a special character, and special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

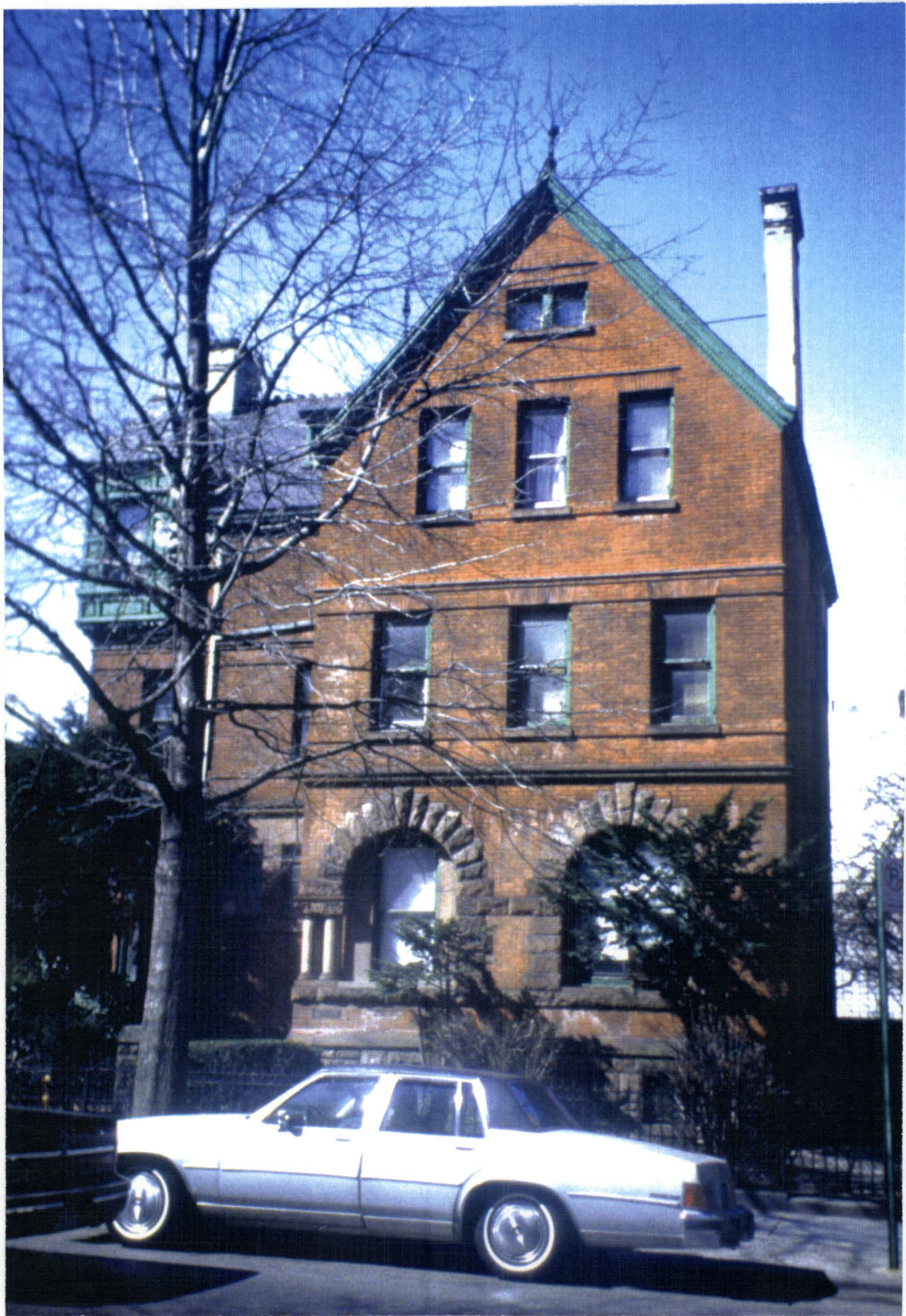
The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the John and Elizabeth Truslow House is significant as one of the most distinguished freestanding residential buildings in Brooklyn; that the building is an important work by Parfitt Brothers, one of the most prominent architectural firms active in Brooklyn in the late nineteenth century; that the house, built in 1887-88, is representative of the period of major development in the Crown Heights neighborhood; that the house was owned and lived in by a succession of locally prominent Brooklynites; that the complex massing and subtle facade details create a building of great beauty; and that the building retains its architectural integrity to a very high degree.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3021 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, aka 1331-1343 Dean Street, Brooklyn, and designates Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1208, Lot 47, as its Landmark Site.



John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.

Photo: Donald Presa



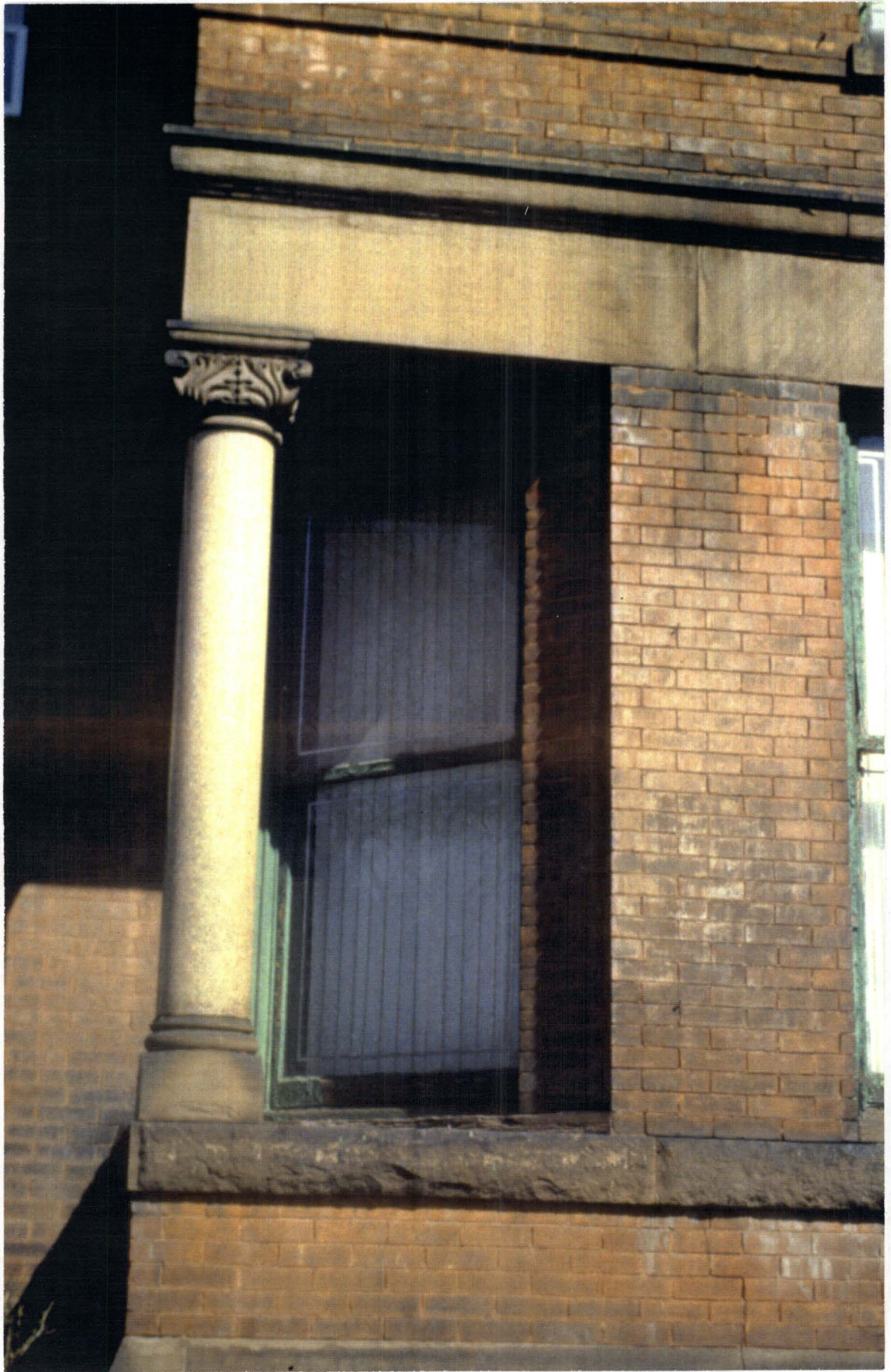
John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.
View of Brooklyn Avenue front

Photo: Donald Presa



John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.
View of Dean Street front

Photo: Donald Presa



John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.

Detail of granite column

Photo: Donald Presa



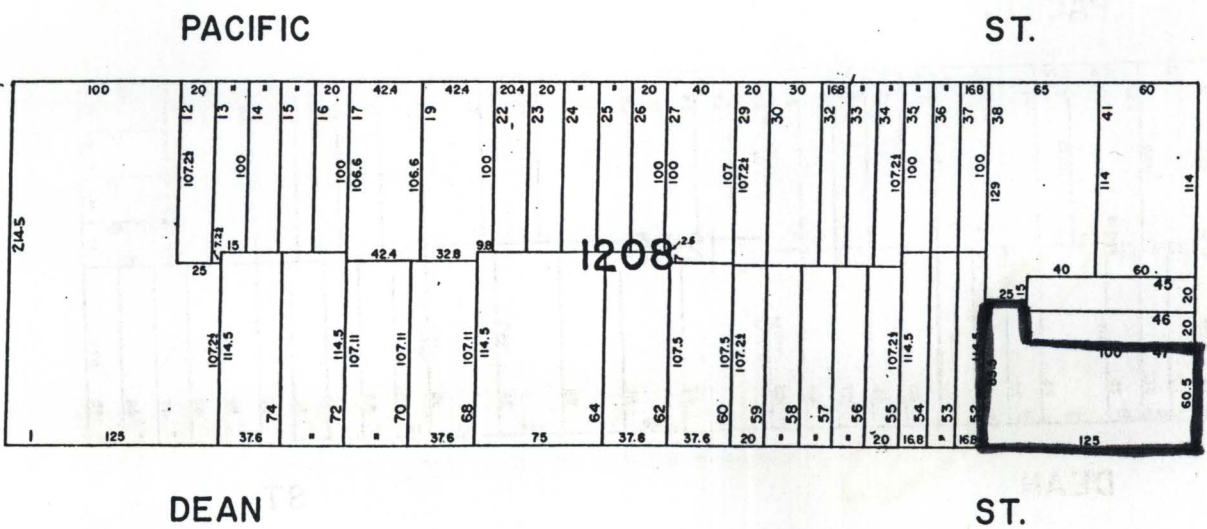
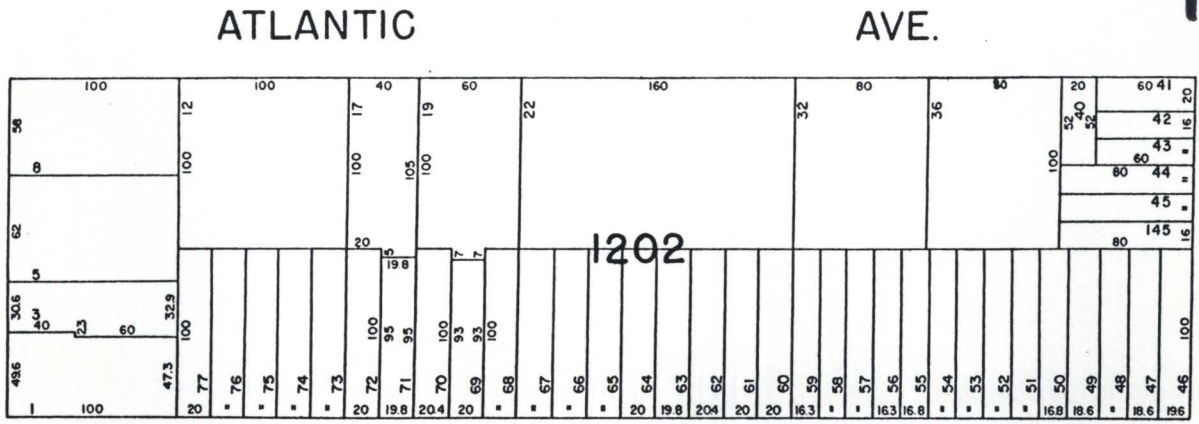
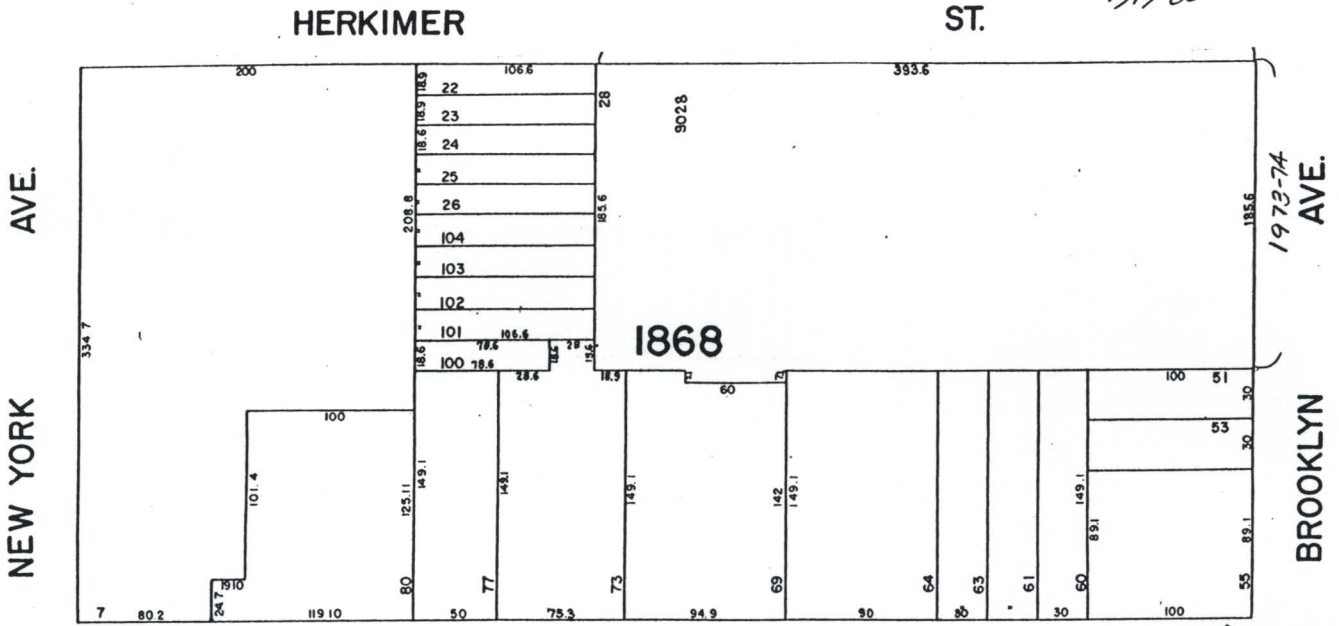
John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.
Detail of Dean Street gable end and oriels

Photo: Donald Presa

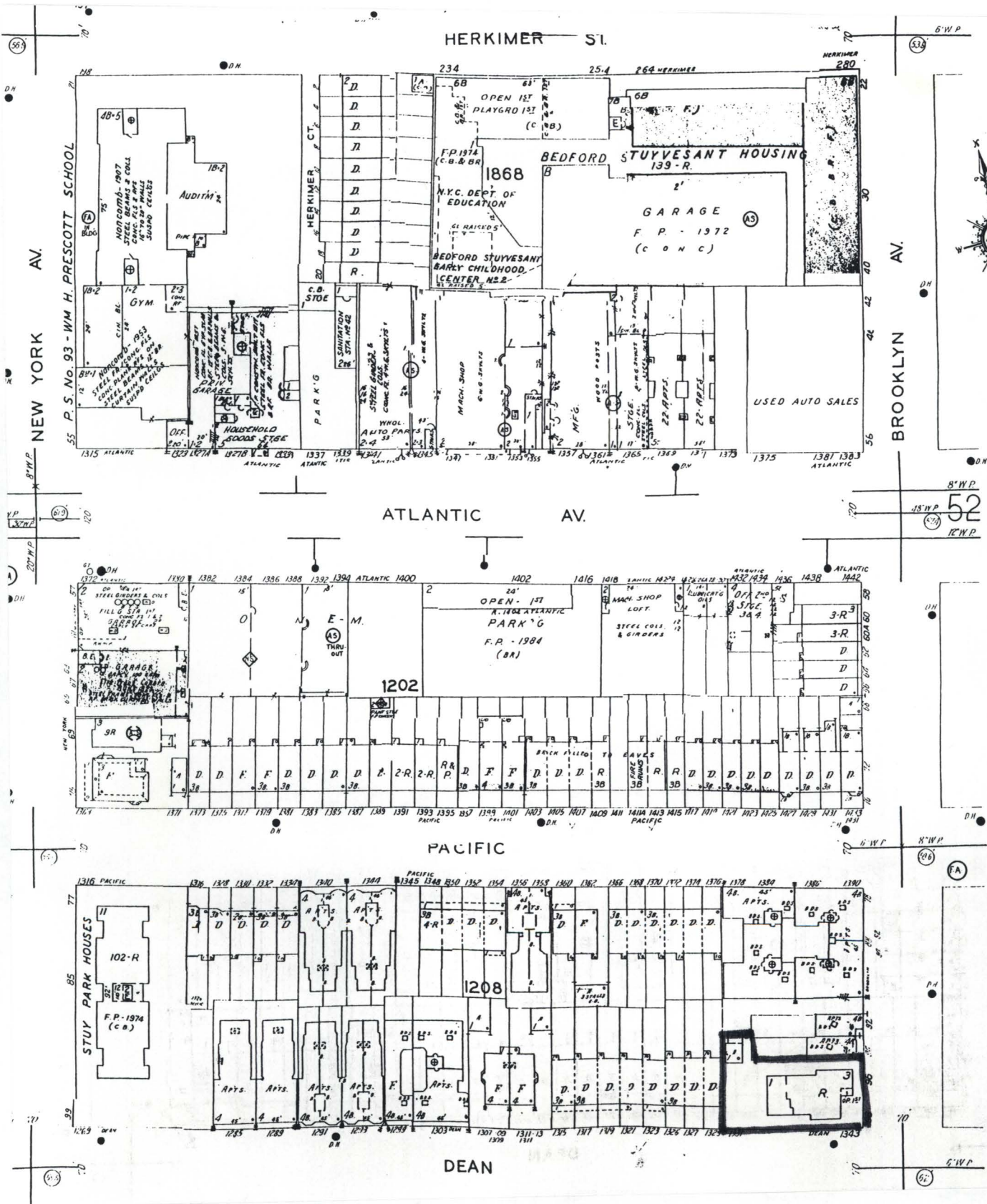


John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.
View of rear elevation with addition

Photo: Donald Presa



John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue aka 1331-1343 Dean Street, Brooklyn
 Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1208, Lot 47
 Source: New York City Department of Finance, City Surveyor, Tax Map



John and Elizabeth Truslow House, 96 Brooklyn Avenue aka 1331-1343 Dean Street, Brooklyn
 Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 1208, Lot 47
 Source: *Sanborn Building and Property Atlas of Brooklyn, N.Y.* 18th ed. (Anaheim, Ca.: Experian, 1997), vol. 5, plate 51