Landmarks Preservation Commission September 30, 2014, Designation List 474 LP- 2548

DOERING-BOHACK HOUSE, 1090 Greene Avenue (aka 1 Goodwin Place), Borough of Brooklyn

Built: 1887; architect: Theobald Engelhardt

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 3294, Lot 1

On October 29, 2013, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Doering-Bohack House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 4). The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. There were no speakers at that hearing. However, the item had been previously heard on June 25, 2013 (Item No. 2) as the De Coudres-Bohack House. At that hearing there were four speakers in favor of the designation, including a representative of Council Member Diana Reyna, and representatives of the Historic Districts Council, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and the Victorian Society New York. There were no speakers in opposition to the designation. On August 25, 2014 the Commission received a letter in support of the designation from Council Member Antonio Reynoso.

Summary

Erected c. 1887 and moved to this site in 1902, the Doering-Bohack House is an extremely handsome and ornate example of a vernacular frame house type popular in Bushwick in the 1880s and 1890s, of which there are few survivors, and may be the only remaining frame house that retains its original detailing by the prominent Brooklyn architect Theobald Engelhardt. Commissioned by Frederick and Rosa T. Doering the house was originally located at 44 Goodwin Place (then Central Place). Erected during a period when southern Bushwick was undergoing a building boom due to the opening of the Broadway elevated line, it is an unusually well-preserved reminder of the middleclass housing of that period when the majority of residences erected in south Bushwick were frame



buildings, since the neighborhood lay outside the Brooklyn "Fire District." In 1902, Henry C. Bohack (1865-1931), a German immigrant and the founder of the grocery store chain, H.C. Bohack & Co., acquired the Doering House in order to construct a warehouse and distribution center on Goodwin Place that would back on to his flagship store at 1289-91 Broadway. Bohack commissioned Engelhardt, who was also in charge of the addition to the Broadway store, to move the former Doering house to 1090 Greene Avenue where it replaced an older, smaller house. Henry C. Bohack, his wife Emma, and nephew Henry C. Bohack, Jr. resided in this house at 1090 Greene Avenue from late 1902 to 1921, when they moved to Kew Gardens to be closer to Bohack's rapidly expanding grocery and real estate interests. At his death in 1931 Bohack owned 740 stores and had 3,000 employees.

Theobald Engelhardt, the designer of this building and the architect responsible for moving it to this site, was a leading Brooklyn architect credited with many important commercial and industrial structures, clubs and residences, including numerous brewery buildings. He designed many frame houses and flats buildings, but almost all of the surviving examples have been reclad and have lost their architectural ornament making the Doering-Bohack House an exceptionally rare survivor.

Designed for a large 40 foot-wide lot, which permitted it to have a fully-developed garden façade, the Doering-Bohack House is a 2-1/2-story frame structure with a brick basement and a habitable attic with a slightly pitched roofline. Its facades retain their original clapboard siding and display a blend of neo-Grec and Queen Anne detailing that is characteristic of Theobald Engelhardt's house designs of the mid-to-late 1880s and of the design of many of the frame houses going up in Bushwick during that period. Noteworthy features include the highlyornamented and incised neo-Grec style window surrounds, pedimented lintels with a sunburst motif, and an elaborate cornice with paired acanthus-leaf brackets, modillions, dentils, incised ornament, and nailhead lintel courses. A two-story oriel window ornaments the side facade, and the third-story attic window surround is capped by a paneled lintel broken by a central roundel. Alterations include the addition of the one-story wing on Goodwin Place c. 1904-08 and the construction of a new stoop and porch, c. 1933-38. The historic tan-brick-and-stone garage with historic wood doors was constructed c. 1904-08. Today, the house remains remarkably intact and is a significant and exuberant example of Bushwick's architectural heritage and through its associations with the Doering and Bohack families is an important reminder of the history of Bushwick at its period of greatest growth and prosperity.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Mid-19th Century Bushwick¹

The town of Bushwick, near the present boundary between Brooklyn and Queens, was one of the original six towns in Brooklyn. In 1852, Williamsburgh, the western and most populous section of the township, became an independent city. However, its municipal status ended three years later, in 1855, when it and all of Bushwick were incorporated within the City of Brooklyn. Thereafter, until Brooklyn's consolidation into Greater New York in 1898, Bushwick, Williamsburgh and Greenpoint were known collectively as Brooklyn's Eastern District.²

Immediately after Bushwick was annexed in 1855 a system of streets was drawn up by civil engineers and old farms began to be mapped and sold for development. The present site of this house at the corner of Greene Avenue and Goodwin Place (originally Central Place) was within the Debevoise farm and was included in a parcel extending to Bushwick Avenue, which was conveyed by Gabriel and Mary Elizabeth Debevoise to Joseph Field in 1855. By 1857 the parcel had been subdivided and the corner lot purchased by Louis and John De Coudres, partners in the Louis De Coudres & Son, brass foundry. In 1860, when the census was taken, John and Hannah De Coudres and their six children were occupying a two-story house at 1090 Greene Avenue.

As Brian Merlis and Riccardo Gomes note in their book *Brooklyn's Bushwick and East Williamsburgh Communities*, "the annexation of Williamsburg and Bushwick coincided with a burst of population and industrial growth." ⁵

During the 1860s, the dredging of English Kills near the southern end of Newtown Creek encouraged full-scale development on what would quickly become an important commercial waterway. Combined with rail transportation the convenient and inexpensive movement of raw materials and finished goods became a reality. A strong national economy and a motivated labor force thrust Brooklyn's companies to the cutting edge of their respective industries. This district became home to large-scale practitioners of *the five black arts*; ... the manufacture of glass, cast iron, petroleum refining, and porcelain/ceramics, and the printing process (publishing).⁶

The potential for jobs in Williamsburgh and Bushwick was particularly appealing to the thousands of Germans who immigrated to New York between 1840 and 1860 in response to political upheavals, famine, and religious persecutions in their homeland. This influx of German immigrants resulted in increased residential construction in the Eastern District and the growth of the area's most famous local industry, brewing. Between the 1850s and the 1880s, 11 separate breweries operated in a 14-square block area of Bushwick-East Willamsburgh known as Brewers' Row⁷ "By the 1880s, 35 breweries had been established in Brooklyn," generating an estimated \$8 million in revenue annually. Companies catering to the brewing trade, supplying pumps, thermometers, barrels and wagons established thriving businesses along Flushing, Morgan, and Metropolitan Avenues. Certain local architects, notably Theobald Engelhardt, as well as builders, and plumbers also specialized in the construction and maintenance of brewery buildings.

The majority of Bushwick's industries were concentrated at the northern end of neighborhood above Flushing Avenue, later expanding southward to Myrtle Avenue. South of Myrtle Avenue, Bushwick developed largely as residential neighborhood with some institutional and commercial buildings. Between 1860 and 1865 the country road known as New Bushwick Lane was straightened and widened and renamed Bushwick Avenue. South of Myrtle Avenue, Bushwick Avenue, sometimes known as Bushwick Boulevard, became the neighborhood's most prestigious residential street lined with "handsome dwellings" in "artistically ornamented grounds," private clubs, churches, and institutions such as St. Catherine's Hospital and the German Evangelical Home for the Aged.⁹

The 1880s Building Boom

In the 1880s the construction of the elevated railroad along Myrtle Avenue and Broadway brought a second wave of development in Bushwick, especially in the southern and eastern sections of the neighborhood where much of the land remained open fields. According to the *Brooklyn Eagle* within six months of the elevated's opening in the spring of 1885 "every piece of unimproved real estate off Broadway and within half a mile of the elevated railway had doubled in value." ¹⁰ At the close of the building season in 1885 a vast amount of work was ongoing —"streets being cut through, sewered, and paved; lots being leveled down and filled up and got in a fit state for the erection of buildings." ¹¹

Nearly all the 325 buildings going up in the neighborhood in the fall of 1885 were frame buildings with wood-cladding. This type of frame construction was forbidden in more built up neighborhoods within the Brooklyn "fire district" but still remained permissible in the relatively undeveloped 18th Ward. Because wood buildings were cheaper to construct than masonry buildings and land costs remained relatively low in south Bushwick, developers were able to offer houses at very good value. With industry booming in north Bushwick and the

elevated line making the neighborhood accessible to workers in congested downtown Brooklyn and lower Manhattan, the demand for housing in south Bushwick seemed almost unlimited. Small self-contained houses that could be rented for \$25 to \$30 a month were especially popular. There was also a strong demand for two-story two-family houses. Many three-story and four-story multiple dwellings were also constructed. On Myrtle Avenue, Broadway, Evergreen Avenue, and Wyckoff Avenue, which all became major commercial spines, many of the new buildings had ground story stores and flats on the upper floors.

The Krick and Doering Families and the Doering House

Among the long-established Bushwick residents who took advantage of the speculative fever of the mid-1880s were the Krick and Doering families. Charles M. Krick (1831-95) was a florist with large land holdings in south Bushwick. Born in Darmstadt, Germany, he apprenticed to his father, a celebrated landscape gardener, responsible for laying out several public parks. Krick immigrated to the United States in 1849 and in 1852 married Kunigunda Zeiner (1829-1903), a Bavarian emigrant. Krick established a plant nursery on Grand Street in Brooklyn. By 1865 he had opened a shop on Debevoise Street in Northern Bushwick and in 1866 he purchased a lot with a frontage of 132 feet on Broadway between Greene Avenue and Grove Street that extended eastward to Bushwick Avenue. (Central Place, now Goodwin Place, was mapped but not cut through until 1873.) In 1869 he constructed a house and shop on Broadway near Grove Street. Krick was one of the first growers to raise flowers for the Long Island market, supplying dealers from Brooklyn and Williamsburgh, and became very successful. He continued to add greenhouses on his Bushwick property.

In May 1884, in anticipation of the elevated line, Krick had his Bushwick property mapped into lots. 15 Immediately thereafter, he conveyed a prime lot at 960 Bushwick Avenue to his daughter Rosa Theodora Doering (c. 1854-1896) and son-in-law Frederick Doering (1854-1931). Frederick Doering was a mason, employed in the Bushwick firm of his father, builder George Doering.¹⁷ During the early 1880s George Doering's firm had the masonry contracts for at least five projects designed by the leading Brooklyn architect Theobald Engelhardt, including a project that was ongoing in the Spring of 1884, so it was natural for Frederick and Rosa Doering to turn to Engelhardt to design a house for their Bushwick Avenue property. 18 The Doerings never resided in the Bushwick Avenue house, selling it in September 1885. Over the next few years Charles Krick continued selling lots on Bushwick Avenue and Central Place.²⁰ He also began developing his frontage along Broadway, erecting two store and flat buildings at 1289-91 and 1293 Broadway, then in 1887, four one-story stores at 1281 to 1287 Broadway. ²¹ In February 1887, Frederick and Rosa Doering purchased another property from Krick, a 40foot-wide, 100-foot-deep lot, located at 44 Central Place (now 44 Goodwin Place). Again they retained Theobald Engelhardt to design their new residence. Because of the generous proportions of the lot, Engelhardt was able to plan a frame 2-1/2-story, 25-feet-wide, 52-feet-deep building, with a rear two-story 16 x 20 feet extension and a designed north façade that overlooked the Doerings' garden and the remaining gardens and greenhouses of the Krick nursery. ²²

The same week that Engelhardt filed plans for the Doerings, another real estate investor, Valentine Popp, purchased a large parcel immediately to the south of the Doerings' property, which had a 175-foot frontage on Central Place, extending to the corner of Grove Street. In July 1887, Popp commissioned Engelhardt to design three flat buildings for 46 to 50 Central Place. Aside from the difference in proportions (46 to 50 Central Place were 20-feet-wide, three-story buildings with high basements) and some slight differences in the treatment of the cornices, they were identical in design to this house. Having already sold 46 to 50 Central Place in 1890,

in 1892 Popp conveyed his remaining property on Central Place to Robert L. Moores, a real estate investor. Moores commissioned Ernest Dennis, a popular Bushwick architect, to design six three-family flat buildings extending from 52 to 62 Central Place (later 52-62 Goodwin Place). Dennis for the most part matched the design of Engelhardt-designed flats at 46 to 50 Central Place – the Dennis buildings were slightly less tall, the windows were square-headed rather than arched, the window hoods deeper with less elaborate latticework, and the crowning cornices less heavy. The effect was of a harmonious row anchored on the north by the Doering house.

As Bushwick became increasingly urbanized, Charles Krick transferred the nursery portion of his business to Elmont, Long Island, and moved his retail business, which he had turned over to his son William C. Krick, to 1287 Broadway. In 1893 Krick sold his former store and residence at 1293 Broadway to baker Paul Schissel and moved to a newly erected house at 36 Central Place.²⁷

Following Charles Krick's death in 1895, his executors retained most of his real estate but, in 1899, they decided to accept a generous offer for the three-story double-store and residence building at 1289-91 Broadway from grocer Henry C. Bohack, who altered and extended the building. They also sold a parcel of land at the center of the block behind 1293 Broadway to Paul Schissel so that he could construct a rear addition to his bakery. Bohack was rapidly expanding his business, which grew from three to six stores in 1899-1900. All but one of the stores were located on Broadway in Bushwick and he was eager to expand the 1289-91 Broadway store and construct an addition that could serve as a warehouse and distribution center for his grocery chain. He began negotiations with Paul Schissel to acquire his store at 1293 Broadway and with a broker to acquire Frederick Doering's house at 44 Central Place with its wide, deep, lot that backed on to Shissel's and Bohack's Broadway lots. Doering's wife Rosa had died in 1896 and he was residing at 44 Central Place with his four children. He seems to have entered into an agreement to sell 44 Central Place late in 1901.

By January 1902, rumors were rife that Bohack intended to establish a delivery department and stable on what the *Brooklyn Eagle* described as "the quietest and most exclusive block in the whole Bushwick section." The *Brooklyn Daily Times* also reported on the planned addition to the Bohack store "in the midst of pretty cottages and select apartment houses," noting that the residents of Central Place were up in arms, that a petition to block the store had garnered hundreds of signatures, and that legislation had been introduced in the New York State Assembly and Senate to prohibit the "introduction of any sort of business on Central Place." The *Daily Times* also lamented the potential loss of "one of the finest residences" on Central Place. Bohack had already expended \$25,000, then a large sum of money, on the project, had his sales agreements in place, and had already retained Theobald Engelhardt to prepare plans for a two-story-and-extension brick warehouse and stable for the Doering House site. Engelhardt filed the plans for the new warehouse building on February 7, 1902, before any legislation could take effect. In 1903 Schissel sold 1293 Broadway to Bohack and 1289-91 Broadway, 1293 Broadway, and the new warehouse at 44 Central Place were joined into one building.

Apparently Henry Bohack also thought that it would be a shame to lose the large and handsome Doering house, which was only about 15 years old. At the same he was acquiring 44 Central Place, he began negotiations to buy the former DeCoudres house at 1090 Greene Avenue, which was located on a 39 x 109-foot corner lot. On January 30th 1902, Bohack finalized the purchase of 1090 Greene Avenue. About a week later, Theobald Engelhardt filed for a permit to move the building at 1090 Greene Avenue and construct a brick foundation.

Although there is no absolute proof of what happened next, because the Building Department records for 1090 Greene and the Doering House have been lost, the evidence strongly suggests that the 45-year-old DeCoudres house was then demolished or moved to another site and the larger, newer, Doering house was moved to the newly-constructed foundations at 1090 Greene Avenue. Supporting this are the similarities in size and shape of the footprints of the present house at 1090 Greene Avenue and the Doering House on maps of the 1880s and 1890s. Articles in the *Real Estate Record & Guide, Brooklyn Eagle* and *Brooklyn Union* document that Engelhardt designed the Doering house at 44 Central Place. Moreover stylistic evidence also strongly suggests that the house now at 1090 Greene Avenue dates from the mid-1880s and was designed by Theobald Engelhardt; in fact it is almost identical in design to the three houses at 46 to 50 Central Place (aka 46-50 Goodwin Place), which are documented Engelhardt works, dating from 1887.

The Design of the Doering-Bohack House

A 2-1/2-story frame structure with a brick basement and a habitable attic, the Doering-Bohack House at 1090 Greene Avenue displays a blend of neo-Grec and Queen Anne detailing that is characteristic of Theobald Engelhardt's house designs of the mid-to-late 1880s and of the design of many of the frame houses going up in Bushwick during that period. Notable features include highly-ornamented and incised neo-Grec style window surrounds, pedimented lintels with a sunburst motif, and an elaborate cornice with paired acanthus-leaf brackets, modillions, dentils and incised ornament. Plain wood sill courses and lintel courses featuring a nailhead motif accent the clapboard siding. A two-story oriel window ornaments the side facade, and the third-story attic window surround is capped by a paneled frieze broken by a central roundel. As previously mentioned, the documented Engelhardt houses at 46 to 50 Central Place employed identical window surrounds, sill and nailhead lintel courses, and similar though not identical cornices and these features were reiterated in the Ernest Dennis-designed flats at 52-62 Central In Brooklyn's Bushwick and East Williamsburgh Place/Goodwin Place of 1892-93. Communities Merlis and Gomes published numerous historic views of dozens of frame houses, flat buildings, and store-and-flat buildings that had pedimented window surrounds, incised decorations, and cornices very similar in design to those employed at the Doering-Bohack House and 46 to 50 Central Place.³⁴ Some also featured decorative lintel and sill courses. Many had pedimented entrance hoods supported by scrolled brackets above their entrances, a feature for the houses at 46 to 50 Central Place, which probably was also used for the Doering-Bohack House. (The porch now at 1090 Greene probably dates from 1933-38.) The similarities in the design of these houses may stem from a variety factors - some of the other buildings may well be by Engelhardt, since he was one of the most prolific architects working in the Eastern District during 1880s; in other cases architects or builders may have been drawing inspiration from the work of a better-known architect; and in some cases builders may have been employing stock millwork. But whatever the origins there seems to have been a widespread vernacular tradition in the Eastern District resulting in tens if not hundreds of buildings employing these elements. Unfortunately, time and lack of maintenance have taken their toll. Today most of the frame buildings in Bushwick have been reclad and have lost their original moldings. A 2011 Columbia University Historic Preservation Studio survey of the Bushwick Avenue area revealed only one other building, at 1193 Bushwick Avenue, that was designed in this tradition and retains its original moldings; however, it is both cruder in design and more altered than the Doering-Bohack House.³⁵ Further, a 2002 survey by City/scape Cultural Resource Consultants of all the

known Engelhardt-designed buildings in Brooklyn produced only one example of frame Engelhardt house, 774-776 Bushwick Avenue (1887), which retains its historic segmental arched second-story window enframements, but the façade is otherwise significantly altered. Thus, the Doering-Bohack house is both an extremely rare survivor of a once-common Bushwick building type and the only known well-preserved surviving frame house by one of Brooklyn's best-known and most-prolific architects.

Theobald Mark Engelhardt (1851-1935)³⁶

Prolific architect Theobald M. Engelhardt was born in Brooklyn to German parents who immigrated to America in the mid-19th century. He received his early education at the Williamsburgh Turn Verein School,³⁷ and later graduated from Brown's Business College and received a certificate in Architectural Drawing from Cooper Union. Engelhardt worked in the office of his father Philip – a successful carpenter and builder – until Philip retired in 1877, at which time the younger Engelhardt opened an architectural practice. Philip Engelhardt is credited with having built the original school building of the Williamsburgh Turn Verein, as well as a number of brewery-related buildings.³⁸ Theobald began his own practice in Bushwick, originally at 14 Fayette Street and later at 906 Broadway (in a building that he designed), and eventually worked on buildings for more than ten different breweries, including the William Ulmer Brewery, a designated New York City Landmark.

Engelhardt worked in various styles, including Gothic Revival, American Round-Arched, neo-Grec, Renaissance Revival, and Queen Anne, designing mansions, houses, tenements, factories, banks, and churches, many of which were located in Brooklyn's Eastern District. His works include St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (1891) at 152-157 Milton Street, the Greenpoint Home for the Aged (1886-87) at 137 Oak Street, and the houses at 122 and 124 Milton Street (1889), all located in the Greenpoint Historic District. He designed the former Maison au Candy Company (1885, reconstructed 1970s), now the Cadman Plaza Artists Houses at 22 Henry Street in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District, and 60-64 Kent Street in the Eberhardt Faber Pencil Company Historic District. Engelhardt also designed the Eastern District Turnverein at Bushwick and Gates Avenues (1902), the clubhouse and addition for the Arion Singing Society (1886 and 1902) at 27 Arion Place, and St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran German church and school (c.1890) at 626 Bushwick Avenue. As stated in a contemporary account, "During a period of over forty-five years of his professional activities, Mr. Engelhardt has designed and constructed many of the largest manufacturing and commercial buildings in the city of Brooklyn, as well as a number of hospitals and dispensary buildings, residences and modern homes,"³⁹ many of which remain throughout the Eastern District.

Henry Bohack and 1090 Greene Avenue

Work on the new warehouse at 44 Central Place and the alterations to 1090 Greene Avenue took place concurrently. In addition to Engelhardt, at least one contractor was hired to work on both jobs. By October 1902, the alterations were completed at 1090 Greene Avenue and Henry Bohack and his wife Emma were occupying the house with at least one live-in servant. The Bohacks continued to occupy the house until 1921, after 1911 with Henry C. Bohack's nephew and namesake, Henry C. Bohack, Jr. (1896-?). Sometime between 1904 and 1908 Bohack added a one-story addition to the rear of the house and probably also added a building-wide porch on Greene Avenue, which was represented on maps in the 1920s and early 1930s but had been replaced by the present porch by the time the tax photo of the house was

taken in the late 1930s. Bohack also built the tan brick garage building at the rear of the property between 1904 and 1908.

Henry C. Bohack, Sr. (1865-1931) was born in Hanover, Germany and immigrated to this country in 1882, at age 17.43 Soon after his arrival he found a job as a salesman in a Williamsburgh grocery store and by 1885 was able to open a grocery store with a partner. In 1887, he opened a second store in his own name at Ewen and Boerum Streets in North Bushwick. In 1889 he married Emma Steffens, a recent emigrant from Germany, and she contributed to the family income by boarding clerks in their home above the grocery store. By 1900, Bohack had six stores, which he ran on a profit-sharing basis with various managers. In March 1901, he and his wife returned to Germany, with the intention of retiring (he was 35). In November 1901 they returned to Brooklyn, 44 with Bohack determined to resume control and expand his business, making the store at 1289-93 Broadway the centerpiece of his operation. He began construction of a modern bakery to service his chain on Lexington Avenue in Bushwick, then set about adding new stores.⁴⁵ To finance the new expansion, he incorporated his business in 1903, with a portion of the stock set aside for the employees to purchase. Bohack eventually opened stores throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. He credited his success to careful site selection, to limiting his business to cash sales only, to maintaining the newest, cleanest, best-equipped stores possible, to buying in huge quantities, and to recruiting top employees, paying them handsomely and continuing to offer them stock in the corporation. Around 1915 Bohack's established an 8.5-acre (eventually 33-acre) meatpacking and distribution center at the junction of Metropolitan and Flushing Avenues, which was serviced by a triplespur, 43-car-siding of the Bushwick Branch of the Long Island Railroad. 46 Bohack's also shifted its administrative offices to Ridgewood. In 1921 the Bohacks sold their home at 1090 Greene Avenue and moved to Kew Gardens.

When Henry C. Bohack died in 1931 the company was operating 740 grocery and meat stores and grossing about \$40 million a year. He left a fortune of about \$10,000,000. His nephew, Henry C. Bohack, Jr., was second vice-president of the corporation and several other family members were employed in the business. During the 1930s the chain continued to expand, buying up failing businesses.⁴⁷ In 1933 the chain's Buffalo Avenue store was picketed by several African-American organizations in protest to the store manager's sexual harassment of African-American women customers. A little over a year later the Bohack Company began working with the Crispus Attucks Community Council to obtain jobs for blacks in its stores.⁴⁸ In the 1940s, Bohack's began reducing the number of its stores, consolidating its business into supermarkets, and was one of "the largest retail food chains operating in the United States." In the 1950s it opened many new stores in the growing suburban communities of Long Island. In 1965, the Bohack-family members and company employees who controlled H.C. Bohack, decided that it was time for the company "to go public." Charles Bluedorn, Chairman of Gulf & Western, became the majority stockholder. At that time almost all of the Bohack family ceased to be involved with the firm.⁴⁹ During the 1960s the Bohack Corporation purchased Daitch Shopwell, Packers, and a few other supermarkets. In the 1970s, as the recession took hold, the corporation once again began buying up businesses and expanded into Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Overextended it failed and ceased operations in May 1977.

Subsequent History

In May 1921, Henry and Emma Bohack conveyed their house at 1090 Greene Avenue to Pauline Rothenberg, wife of Arnold Rothenberg.⁵⁰ The Rothenbergs had emigrated from Polish

Galicia, then part of Austrian Empire in 1889, and had become citizens in 1903.⁵¹ They operated a millinery store on Broadway in Bushwick and had three children. Arnold Rothenberg, died in December of 1927 and late in January 1928, Pauline Rothenberg sold 1090 Greene Avenue to Catherine Scuderi.⁵² According to the 1930 census, Italian immigrants Angelo and Catherine Scuderi occupied the house with their six adult children, including Dr. Samuel F. Scuderi, a physician associated with Kings County Hospital.⁵³ During the 1930s Dr Scuderi, his wife, and children continued to reside in this house with his parents. Around 1940, the Scuderis moved out and the house remained unoccupied for some time. In 1943 the Roosevelt Savings Bank foreclosed on Catherine Scuderi's mortgage. The following year the bank sold the property to Andrea Di Como, a Sicilian immigrant employed in the construction industry. Andrea Di Como retained ownership of the house until 1950 when he sold it to Innocenza Di Como. From 1946 through 1961 the family of John Di Como occupied one of two apartments in the building; in the 1950s the Philip Rebecca was also a tenant.

By the 1950s many of the industries that contributed to Bushwick's growth and prosperity were moving out of the neighborhood.⁵⁴ Most of the German and Italian families who had traditionally made up the majority of the neighborhood's population moved to Queens and the suburbs. They were replaced, to a degree, by Hispanic and African-American families but many of the neighborhood's factories and homes remained vacant due to "red-lining," which denied loans to investors who sought to purchase and maintain homes and commercial buildings in the area. Abuses of the FHA mortgage system also led to housing abandonment. By the mid-1970s fires were prevalent in Bushwick and rioting during the Blackout of 1977 resulted in massive destruction of property. After the riots many more businesses and residents left the neighborhood. During the 1980s poverty and crime were prevalent and buildings continued to be razed. In the 1990s and 2000s government and community groups partnered to create new housing and improve services. The low cost of housing in the area attracted an influx of new immigrants from Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle East, as well as artists, musicians, and young professionals.

These changes in Bushwick's demographics were reflected in the ownership and occupancy of 1090 Greene Avenue. In 1966 the executors of the estate of Innocenza Di Como sold the house to a realty company, which conveyed it to Gilberto Toro. Three years later Toro sold the house to Miguel A. and Gladys Torres. The Torres family resided at 1090 Greene during the 1970s as did members of the Benitez family. In 1983, Miguel Torres, by then divorced, conveyed the house to Tom (T.L.) Deadwiley, an African-American, originally from Florida, and Diana Amerson, wife of Henry I. Amerson. T.L. Deadwiley, his wife Julia, and family and the Amerson family occupied 1090 Greene Avenue until 1991 when they sold the house to Percival G. Morrison and Pauline V. Roberts.

Over the years, the house underwent some alterations, During the 1930s a new Colonial Revival porch and porch stoop were added and alterations were made to the basement and front yard to create a suitable medical office for Dr. Scuderi. After 1938, openings for attic windows were cut in the friezes of the front and rear crowning cornices and larger window openings were installed flanking the center attic window on Goodwin Place.

Nevertheless, the Doering-Bohack House, is one of the few remaining frame houses from this period in Bushwick that retains its historic clapboard siding and architectural ornament; it is an extremely handsome and ornate example of the work of a vernacular type popular for frame houses in the 1880s and 1890s, of which there are few survivors; it may be the only remaining frame-house that retains its original detailing by the prominent Brooklyn architect

Henry Engelhardt. Moreover, it was for almost 20 years the home of Henry C. Bohack, the developer of one of New York's leading grocery store chains, and through its associations with the Doering and Bohack families is an important reminder of the history of Bushwick at its period of greatest growth and prosperity.

Description

Neo-Grec style two-and-a-half story frame house on a brick basement. Main portion of house rectangular in plan with low-pitched gabled roof; flat-roofed two-story and one-story extensions at the rear of house.

Corner lot with L-shaped garden. Separate one-story brick garage at rear of lot. Concrete paving between house and garage; concrete driveway from garage to street. Historic iron picket fence and non-historic taller outer chainlink fence; non-historic metal gates in front of driveway. Brick and masonry posts on Greene Avenue mark entry to central path and staircase flanked by retaining walls leading to an areaway and basement entry. Primary entrance on east end of Greene Avenue façade approached by concrete walk; stoop with brick sidewalls and concrete steps, wood porch. Narrow window well runs along Goodwin Place façade.

Historic: Clapboard wood siding; segmental-arched windows with neo-Grec enframements capped by triangular pediments except on rear walls of the main house and two-story wing, which have square-headed window openings with simple lintels capped by drip moldings; historic one-over-one wood sash windows except at first story of the rear two-story wing, which has historic (not original two-over-two wood sashes); plain wood sill courses and nailhead lintel courses decorate both primary facades; historic paired wood-and-glass doors and segmental-arched transom at main entrance on Greene Avenue; two-story bay window at center of Goodwin Avenue façade; elaborate wood cornices with brackets decorated with acanthus leaves, modillions, dentils, paterae, and incised decorations; brick chimneys with corbelled caps; tan brick garage at rear of lot with iron beam over vehicle entry and stone window lintels, corbelled cornice; historic paired wood garage doors with diagonal bracing.

Alterations: Basement refaced with red brick; basement door beneath front porch and basement windows on Greene Avenue and all but southern three basement windows on Goodwin Place façade replaced; metal hatch to basement at rear of two-story wing; brick stoop and columned porch with triangular pediment; hipped hoods above first story windows on Greene Avenue; mullions dividing bottom lights first-story windows and eastern second-story window Greene Avenue facade; window sash replaced in southernmost second story window on Goodwin Avenue and second-story rear of main house, second-story side and rear windows of two-story wing; attic windows inserted in front and rear cornices and side windows at attic level on Goodwin Place; former entry at rear one-story wing sealed and clapboarded; non-historic metal railing on steps to front porch; non-historic mailbox by front door; non-historic light fixtures on ceiling of porch roof, above center basement window on Greene Avenue, and rear wall of the two-story wing; metal utility box at north end basement wall on Goodwin Place façade; some losses of wood trim; parging on chimneys (spalling); vent pipe on roof of two-story wing; satellite antenna on garage roof.

Report researched and written by Gale Harris Research Department

NOTES

¹ This section on the early history of Bushwick is based on Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), *Public School 86 (Irvington School) Designation Report* (LP-1808) (New York: City of New York, 1991) and LPC, *William Ulmer Brewery Designation Report (LP-2280)* (New York: City of New York, 2010), report by Tara Harrison; Brian Merlis and Riccardo Gomes, *Brooklyn's Bushwick and East Williamsburgh Communities* (Wyckoff, NJ: Gomerl Publishing, 2012); Eugene Armbruster, *The Eastern District of Brooklyn* (New York, printed privately, 1912).

² Henry Reed Stiles, *The Civil, Political, Professional and Ecclesiastical History and Commercial and Industrial Record of the County of Kings and the City of Brooklyn, NY from 1683 to 1884* (Brooklyn: W.W. Munsell & Co., 1884), 1, 270-305.

³ Kings County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds & Conveyances, Liber 385, 269.

⁴ Deeds Liber 388, 158.

⁵ Merlis and Gomes, 24.

⁶ Merlis and Gomes, 25.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ellen M. Snyder-Grenier for the Brooklyn Historical Society, *Brooklyn: An Illustrated History* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996), 148.

⁹ "The Bushwick Avenue Improvement," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Jul. 12, 1866, 2. See also "Up Bushwick Avenue: It is a Beautiful Residence Thoroughfare," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Sept. 30, 1894, 20; Merlis and Gomes, 264-279.

¹⁰ "18th Ward: A Territory Large Enough for a City," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Oct. 26, 1885, 4.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² This information on Charles M. Krick is based his posted on "Charles M Krick - View media – Ancestry Library..com @ http://treees.ancestrylibrary.com/tree/652800/person/319538848/mediax/2?pgnum=1&pg=3 accessed Sept. 29, 2014; Kunigunda Krick's obituary in the *Brooklyn Eagle*, January 19, 1903; entries for the Kricks and Doerings on the "Stern Family Tree" posted on *ancestry.com*; Brooklyn Directories, 1865-1904; Kings County Tax Assessment Records, 18th Ward, 1867-1893. From currently available sources it cannot be determined whether Krick employed minorities in his florist business.

¹³ Kings County Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, Liber 711, 441.

¹⁴ He purchased additional properties in Sheepshead Bay, Gravesend, and about 25 acres in Elmont, then a part of Queens, now Nassau County, where he built additional greenhouses.

¹⁵ "Map of the Property of Charles Krick in the Eighteenth Ward, Brooklyn," filed by John C. Nostrand, May 1884.

¹⁶ Conveyances, Liber 1561, 387.

¹⁷ This information on the Doering family is based on the entries for Frederick and Rosa Doering in the Grebe-Scheulerein Family Tree posted on *ancestry.com*; Brooklyn Directories, 1871-1901; United States Census, 1860, Kings County, 16th Ward, 675; United States Census, 1880, Brooklyn, Kings County, ED 180, 44D; New York State Census, Kings County, 1892, 18th Ward, 37th ED, 9; United States Census, Brooklyn, 1900, 28th Ward, ED 513, sheet 8B,

¹⁸New Building Permit 586-1884 recorded in "Kings County," Real Estate Record & Guide, (May 17, 1884), 555.

¹⁹ Conveyances Liber 1625, 50.

²⁰ Conveyances Liber 1627, 188; Liber 1679, 244.

²¹ For the stores see NB 89-1887.

²² New Building Permit 528-1887 listed in "Kings County," *Real Estate Record & Guide*, (Apr. 2, 1887), 466. See also "Brooklyn," *Real Estate Record & Guide*, (Feb. 19, 1887), 234; "New Buildings," *Brooklyn Union*, Apr. 5, 1887.

²³ Conveyances Liber 1725, 429. See also *Real Estate Record & Guide*, (Apr. 9, 1887), 490.

²⁴ New Building permit 724-1887. The permits for these no longer extant houses were checked and the houses were photographed in connection with an architectural survey of Bushwick-Ridgewood conducted by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1976-77. See LPC, "Brooklyn Survey Bushwick Avenue Proposed Historic District Report," c. 1977, in the Brooklyn Current Research files.

²⁵ Conveyances Liber 2112, 549.

²⁶ New Building permit 428-1893, filed April 18, 1893.

²⁷ Conveyances Liber 2170, 179. William C. Krick also built a house at 40 Central Place, immediately to the north of the Doering house, in 1893-94. See Conveyances Liber 2186, 478; New Building docket 569-1893.

²⁸ "Borough of Brooklyn: Conveyances," Real Estate Record & Guide, (May 6, 1899), 857.

²⁹ "Borough of Brooklyn: Conveyances," *Real Estate Record & Guide*, (June 17, 1899), 1183; "Alterations, "*Real Estate Record & Guide*, (June 10, 1899), 1140.

^{. 30 &}quot;Central Place Up in Arms," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Feb, 7, 1902, 6.

³¹ "Central Place Aroused," *Brooklyn Daily Times*, Feb. 8, 1902. See also *Documents of the Senate of the State of New York* 22, n. 39-42 (Albany: J.B. Lyon Co, State Printers, 1902), 217; "Legislative Digest," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Feb. 6, 1902, 5.

³² Ibid.

^{33 &}quot;Schissel Bakery Bought," Brooklyn Eagle, Oct. 11, 1903.

³⁴ These included buildings on Forrest Avenue (p. 156), Stockholm Street (p. 169, 244), Humboldt Street (188), Cornelia Street (p 195), Flushing Avenue (p. 207), Halsey Street (p. 216), Hart Street (p. 223), Knickerbocker Avenue (p. 235), Troutman Street (p. 245), Wyckoff Avenue (p. 250), Bushwick Avenue, north of Myrtle Avenue (p. 265), and Broadway at Ellery Street (p. 286).

³⁵ Columbia University, GSAPP Historic Preservation Studio II, *Bushwick Avenue: A Preservation Plan*, Spring 2011 @ http://www.arch.columbia.edu/files/gsapp/mcshared/Bushwick_Avenue_Preservation_Plan_Pdf.

³⁶ Information in this section is available from Carl Wilhelm Schlegel, *Schlegel's American Families of German Ancestry in the United States*, v. 1 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003); Stiles; (LPC), *William Ulmer Designation Report (LP-2280)*, prepared by Tara Harrison; (LPC), *Eberhardt Faber Pencil Factory Historic District Designation Report (LP-2264)*, prepared by Donald Presa; (LPC), *Greenpoint Historic District Designation Report* (LP-1248) (New York: City of New York, 1982), prepared by James T. Dillon and the research staff; and LPC research file. "Theobald Engelhardt."

³⁷ In 1856, Theobald M. Engelhardt is listed as the first scholar on the admission list of the Williamsburgh (later

Eastern District) Turn Verein School, where his family appears to have been very involved, his aunt as an instructor and his father as a member of the management committee. The school, which included primary, grammar, high school and later, preparatory or college classes, developed a high standard as an institution among the leading German-American families of the Eastern District. In 1873, Philip Engelhardt was the contractor and builder for the new Turn Verein school building at 61-63 Meserole Street, with his son serving as his and the architect's assistant. Like his father, the younger Engelhardt later served as a member of the school's management committee, and was selected to design a new Turnverein building in 1902. Schlegel, 390-1; "Arion's New President," *Brooklyn Eagle*, March 23, 1903, 1.

³⁸ Among the buildings credited to Philip Engelhardt are: the Kips Bay malthouse, the Malcolm malthouses on Bergen Street and Franklin Avenue (later Nassau Brewery, extant), the Malcolm malthouses on Flushing Avenue and Skillman Street (later Franklin brewery, extant), the original brewing plant and later, large malthouse of S. Liebmann & Son's Brewing Company, part of the Lanzer Brewery on Liberty and Georgia Avenues (later Piel Brothers), and the Obermeyer & Liebmann brewery and malting plant on Bremen and Forrest Street in the Eastern District. (Schlegel, 392).

³⁹ Schlegel, 392.

⁴⁰ In April 1902, Bohack purchased the house at 1092 Greene Avenue. This would have given Bohack's workmen access to the eastern side of 1090 Greene Avenue, which was located very close to the lot line between the two houses. The work having been completed on No. 1090, Bohack sold No. 1092 to Rudolph Kunzer, imposing restrictive covenants on the property that prohibited Kunzer from erecting a fence more than 10 feet in height and from having a factory or stable on any part of the premises.

⁴¹ "The Greater New York." *Plumbers' Trade Journal and Hot Water Fitters' Review*, June 1, 1902, 456.

⁴² New York State Census, Kings County, 1905, AD 20, ED 20, p. 23; New York State Census, Kings County, 1915, AD 20, ED 13, p. 16; United States Census, Brooklyn, 1910, 28th Ward, ED 825, sheet 4A; United States Census, Kings County, Brooklyn, 1920, 28th Ward, ED 1306 sheet 14B; Brooklyn directories, 1902-11`.

⁴³ This biographical material on Henry C. Bohack is drawn from Peter Ross, *A History of Long Island from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (New York: Lewis Publishing, 1903),164-165; "Hit a Pole To Save a Boy," *New York Times*, Oct. 30, 1905,14; H. C. Bohack Co., *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary* (New York: Bohack Co, 1914); M. Sieve, "The Story Behind 187 Stores," *Forbes*, (May 13, 1922); "Keen Optimism Bulwark of Success of Brooklyn's Greatest Grocery Chain Stores," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Jan. 30, 1921,5 "H.C. Bohack Dies; Head of 740 Stores," *New York Times*, Sept. 18, 1931,23; "Henry C. Bohack is Dead at 66," *New York Sun*, Sept. 17, 1931, 21; "Bohack Chain Closing, Started Here in 1885," *Ridgewood Times*, July 14, 1977; Lou Seligson, "Men of Queens," *Long Island Press*, Oct. 10, 1948; "Bohack Company Marks 41st Year of Development," [Queens] *Daily Star*, June 14, 1928; "H.C. Bohack Estate Left to His Family, *New York Times*, Oct. 4, 1931, 30.

⁴⁴ "Happy Surprise Party," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Nov. 22, 1901, 15.

⁴⁵ "Schissel Bakery Bought;" "Bohack Company's Bakery," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Feb.22, 1908, 3.

⁴⁶ Bohack also enlarged the Central Place warehouse in 1904 and 1911-12, then replaced it with a modern facility after a fire in 1923. See Alt. 176-1904 and Alt. 15212-1923 in the Brooklyn, DOB, Block 3293, Lot 29 folder for 1289 Broadway; "Brooklyn," *Real Estate Record & Guide*, (Oct. 14, 1911), 557; "Factories and Warehouses," *Real Estate Record & Guide*, (May 4, 1912), 939; "30,000 Watch Night Blaze in Brooklyn," *New York Evening Post*, Mar. 16, 1923.

⁴⁷ On the later history of the Bohack's see Seligson; "Bohack Chain Closing;" "Bohack's Marks 50th Year, Opens Super-Market," "Progress Is Keynote of Bohack 61st Anniversary," Queens Library, Archives, Clippings file "Retail Trace, H. C. Bohack;" "Week-Long Party: Birthday Fete Begins at Bohack's," *Long Island Star-Journal*, June 23, 1955, 26; *Blah Blog Blah: Bohacks the Official Story*, @ http://mingum.blogspot.com/2010/01/bohacks-official-story.html, posted Jan. 28, 210, accessed June 19, 2013.

⁴⁸ On the Bohack chain's racial policies see "Veterans Continue Chain Store Picket," *The New York Age*, June 24, 1933, 3; Lizabeth Cohen, "Black Power of the Purse, A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America," *Mindfully.org* @ http://www.mindfully.or/Reform/2003/Black-Power-PurseJan03.htm, accessed Mar. 5. 2014; "Crispus Attucks Council Celebrates 1st Anniversary," *The New York Age*, May 5, 1934, 12.

⁴⁹ Except for Robert H.C. Bohack, Sr., a grand-nephew of the founder, who handled the Human Resources Department.

⁵⁰ Conveyances, Liber 4908, 27-28.

⁵¹ For the Rothenbergs see Brooklyn directories, 1906-12; United States Census, Brooklyn,1920, ED 260, sheet, 21A.; United States Census, Brooklyn,1930, ED 24-1278, sheet, 13A; "Rothenberg–Arnold," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Dec. 24, 1927, 16.

⁵² Conveyances Liber 4908, 26; Liber 4908, 28.

⁵³ United States Census, Brooklyn, 1930, ED 24-397, sheet, 21A. See also United States Census, Brooklyn, 1920, ED 742, sheet, 20B-21A.

⁵⁴This section on the later development of Bushwick is based on Columbia, *Bushwick Avenue*, 14-16 and "Bushwick, Brooklyn," *Wikipedia*, @ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bushwick,Brooklyn, 6-10.

⁵⁵ This information on the later ownership history of the house is based on property records available on the New York City, Department of Finance, ACRIS, website for Block 3294/Lot 1 and for the family records for the owners available at Ancestry.com; both accessed March 11, 2014.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of the buildings and site, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Doering-Bohack House has a special character, 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 Doering-Bohack House, erected c. 1887 and moved to this site in 1902, is an extremely handsome and ornate example of a vernacular frame house type popular in Bushwick in the 1880s and 1890s, of which there are few survivors, and may be the only remaining frame house that retains its original detailing by the prominent Brooklyn architect Theobald Engelhardt; that commissioned by Frederick and Rosa T. Doering and originally located at 44 Goodwin Place (then Central Place), it was erected during a period when southern Bushwick was undergoing a building boom due to the opening of the Broadway elevated line and is an unusually well-preserved reminder of the housing erected during that period when the majority of residences built in south Bushwick were frame buildings; that in 1902, Henry C. Bohack (1865-1931), a German immigrant and the founder of the grocery store chain, H.C. Bohack & Co., acquired the Doering House in order to construct a warehouse and distribution center on Goodwin Place that would back on to his flagship store at 1289-91 Broadway; that Bohack commissioned Engelhardt, who was also in charge of the addition to the Broadway store, to move the former Doering house to 1090 Greene Avenue where it replaced an older, smaller house; that Henry C. Bohack, his wife Emma, and nephew Henry C. Bohack, Jr. resided in this house at 1090 Greene Avenue from late 1902 to 1921; that Theobald Engelhardt, the designer of this building and the architect responsible for moving it to this site, was a leading Brooklyn architect credited with many important commercial and industrial structures, clubs and residences, including numerous brewery buildings; that Engelhardt designed many frame houses and flats buildings, but almost all of the surviving examples have been reclad and have lost their architectural ornament making the Doering-Bohack House an exceptionally rare survivor; that designed for a large 40 foot-wide lot, which permitted it to have a fully-developed garden façade, the Doering-Bohack House is a 2-1/2-story frame structure with a brick basement and a habitable attic with a slightly pitched roofline; that its facades retain their original clapboard siding and display a blend of neo-Grec and Queen Anne detailing that is characteristic of Theobald Engelhardt's house designs of the mid-to-late 1880s and of the design of many of the frame houses going up in Bushwick during that period; that today, the house remains remarkably intact and is a significant and exuberant example of Bushwick's architectural heritage and through its associations with the Doering and Bohack families is an important reminder of the history of Bushwick at its period of greatest growth and prosperity.

Accordingly, pursuant to provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 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 Doering-Bohack House and designates Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 3294, Lot 1 as its Landmark Site.

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair Adi Shamir Baron, Frederick Bland, Diana Chapin, Michael Devonshire, John Gustaffson, Roberta Washington, Commissioner



Doering-Bohack House

1090 Greene Avenue
(aka 1 Goodwin Place)
Borough of Brooklyn Tax Block 3294, Lot 1
Built c.1887, moved 1902
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee (2014)



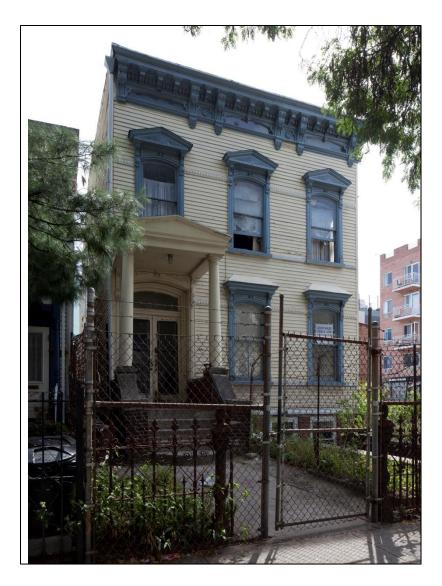
1090 Greene Avenue in 1977
Photo: LPC



46 to 50 Goodwin Place
Built for Valentin Popp in 1887
Demolished 1981
Photo: LPC



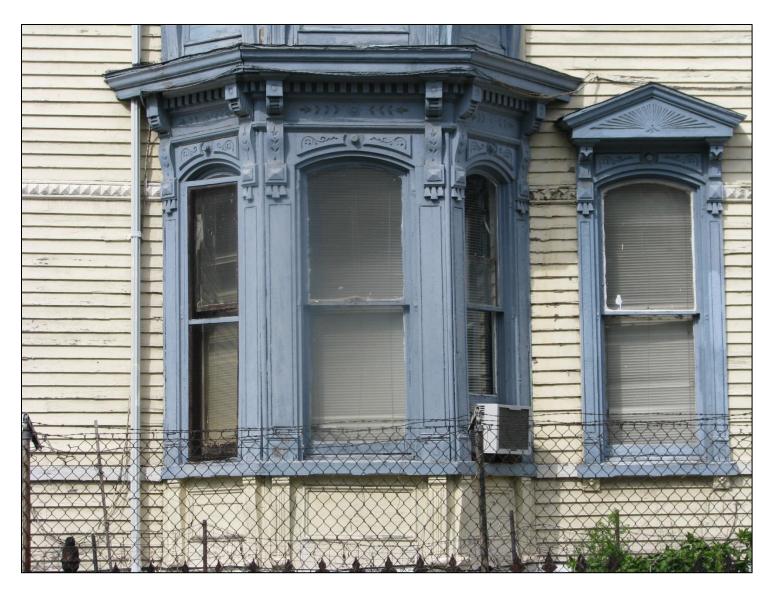
View looking southwest from intersection of Grove Street and Goodwin Place Showing 46 to 62 Goodwin Place, 1942 Photo Source: Brian Merlis and Riccardo Gomes, Brooklyn's Bushwick and East Williamsburgh Communities



Doering-Bohack House Greene Avenue façade *Photo: Christopher D. Brazee (2014)*



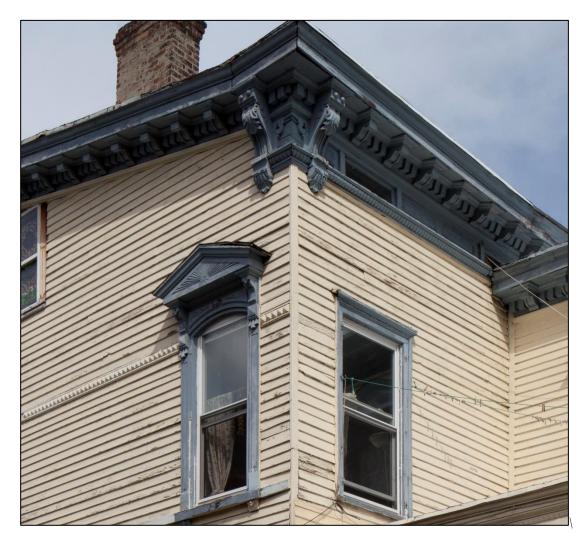
Bohack-Doering House Goodwin Place façade *Photo: Christopher D. Brazee*



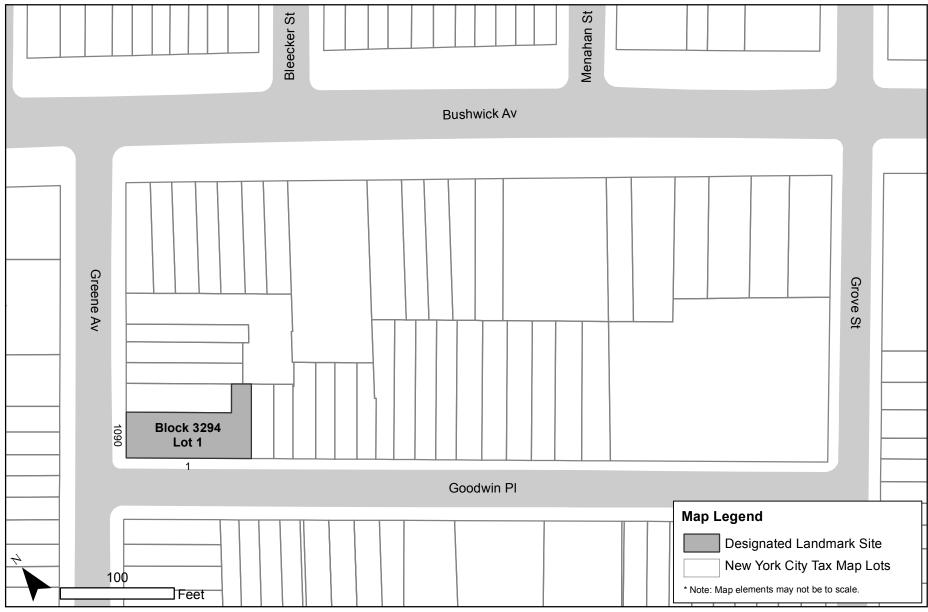
Bohack-Doering House Detail Greene Avenue façade *Photo: Gale Harris (2013)*



Bohack-Doering HouseDetail upper stories
Photo: Gale Harris (2013)



Doering-Bohack HouseCornice detail
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee (2014)



DOERING-BOHACK HOUSE (LP-2548), 1090 Greene Avenue (aka 1 Goodwin Place) Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn, Tax Map Block 3294, Lot 1

Designated: September 30, 2014