



April 19, 2021

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Fl. North
New York, NY 10007

Re: **Dorrance Brook Square Historic District – Manhattan**

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Andrew Berman

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VILLAGEPRESERVATION.ORG

Dear Chair Carroll and LPC Commissioners,

I write to express Village Preservation's strong supports for the designation of the Dorrance Brooks Historic District, especially the inclusion of the former Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church and the adjacent rectory within the proposed district boundary.

The district is eminently worthy of designation and preservation, as is so much of Central Harlem, one of New York's most historically and architecturally rich neighborhoods. Too much of this community has already been lost or compromised due to a lack of landmark protections, and certainly much more needs to be done.

This is one of many sections of Central Harlem which local community groups have been seeking to protect for many years. Blocks like these are not only rich in wonderfully vivid and in many cases well-preserved architecture, but incredibly rich in cultural history and significance, given Harlem's outsized role in the African American cultural life of not only our city but our nation, as well as in civil rights history.

African American history, the history of other underrepresented groups, and civil rights history in our city has long lacked the recognition and protections it needs and deserves. In our own neighborhoods of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo, while a few important strides have been made, we continue to see sites of import to the history of African Americans, women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and civil rights and social justice movements fall before the wrecking ball, or hold on precariously without the landmark designations they warrant.

Hopefully that will not be the case with the proposed Dorrance Brooks Historic District. I hope the Commission will act swiftly to designate the entire proposed district, and move ahead with other much-needed and long-overdue designations of sites connected to African American, civil rights, and other underrepresented groups, in Harlem and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director