

PROPOSED MOUNT MORRIS PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

The proposed Mount Morris Park Historic District Extension consists of approximately 276 properties primarily located on six blocks immediately west of the existing Mount Morris Park Historic District, which was designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1971. It encompasses more than 250 row houses and approximately 12 apartment buildings on the blocks between West 118th to 123rd Street, Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard. The proposed Historic District Extension shares a development history with the existing Historic District as many of the architects and developers are responsible for buildings in both areas.

Similar to the existing Historic District, the streets of the proposed Historic District Extension are lined with masonry row houses of exceptional quality that reflected Harlem's development as an affluent residential community following the extension of rapid transit into the area around 1880. The proposed Historic District Extension buildings display a variety of architectural styles popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Mount Morris was one of the first areas in Harlem to attract residential development. The earliest buildings in the proposed historic district are these Second Empire style brick row houses with mansard roofs that also feature gabled dormers, brownstone stoops and molded window lintels. There are several neo-Grec style rows including these brownstone-clad houses that feature incised surrounds, bracketed window sills and door lintels, and wood cornices with brackets and dentils. This stunning Queen Anne style row exhibits such hallmarks of the style as mixed use of materials, as well as a variety of surface treatments, window and door configurations, geometrical ironwork and irregular rooflines. The limestone or sandstone Romanesque Revival style rowhouses at West 120th Street feature broad stoops, rough-faced ashlar, round-arch openings and geometrical and foliated decoration.

The row houses, mainly built as single-family dwellings were originally occupied by prosperous middle-class households.

By the late 1920s, the Mount Morris Park area began to attract a large African-American population, becoming an important part of black Harlem and the home to numerous prominent black residents.

The area today remains one of New York City's most vibrant African-American communities. Many of the houses in the proposed Mount Morris Park Extension retain a high degree of integrity.

