

## HENRY AND SUSAN MCDONALD HOUSE

128 Clinton Avenue (aka 128-132 Clinton Avenue & 128 Rear Clinton Avenue), Brooklyn

**Block:** 1887/ Lot 82

**Built:** 1853-54

**Architect:** Not Determined

**Original Owner:** Henry McDonald

**Style:** Italianate with Greek Revival elements

**Previous Actions:** Heard June 25, 2013

**Significant Alterations:** Original conservatory replaced by historic rear addition; porch railing replaced; front stoop and railings replaced, some moldings and brackets replaced, attic window openings enlarged (prior to 1934); single-pane pivot windows replace original attic casements in enlarged openings, fire escape installed on facade

This unusually well-preserved and rare free-standing Italianate style frame house with Greek Revival style elements was erected for Henry and Susan McDonald in 1853-54. It was built in a period when this area of the Wallabout was undergoing rapid development following an expansion of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the opening of several new streets. Located at the crest of a hill with excellent views of the East River and Manhattan, Clinton Avenue was the neighborhood's premiere residential street, a wide tree-lined boulevard lined with the villas of wealthy merchants.

The house's cubic form, low-hipped roof, strongly projected bracketed eaves, molded window surrounds, wood-and-glass double doors with segmental-arched transom and wood reveal, and columned portico enriched with dentils and paired brackets are characteristic of the Italianate style. Greek Revival style elements include the fluted porch columns with Tower of the Winds Corinthian capitals and first-story windows with eared surrounds.

The house was occupied by Henry McDonald, a prosperous baker with a business on Catherine Street in Manhattan, and his family until the mid-1870s. Subsequent owners included merchant David S. Jones, attorney Edgar J. Phillips, and physician Domenick Candella. Although there have been changes to the house's front porch and stoop rails, some replacement of historic moldings, pivoting sashes installed in place of the original attic casements, and a fire escape added to the façade, the McDonald House remains unusually intact and survives today as an important reminder of the early development of Wallabout.

