

Victorian Society Testimony for October 6, 2026: 112th Avenue at 177th Street - Addisleigh Park Historic District (LPC-26-01542); 406-410 MacDonough Street - Bedford-Stuyvesant/Expanded Stuyvesant Heights Historic District (LPC-26-08779); 14 Bank Street - Greenwich Village Historic District (LPC-26-07271)

Approximate time: 10:00; join Zoom by: 9:30

LPC-26-01542 -- 112th Avenue at 177th Street - Addisleigh Park Historic District, Queens

Good morning commissioners, _____ speaking for the Victorian Society New York. Founded in New York City in 1966, the Victorian Society in America is dedicated to fostering the appreciation and preservation of our 19th and early 20th century heritage. The NY chapter promotes preservation of our historic districts, individual and scenic landmarks, interiors and civic art.

The Victorian Society is happy to support this proactive proposal by the New York City Departments of Design and Construction and Environmental Protection to address potential stormwater problems.

The work will not require any alterations to the protected buildings within this part of Addisleigh Park. The low brick retaining walls which are proposed are similar to other retaining walls in the district in terms of materials, dimensions and details. The relocated sidewalks and grass strips are similar to historic street elements within the district.

We recognize that the stormwater planting strips are different in dimensions, location, and the variety of plants proposed for these areas from the historic planting strips within the district, but we believe they are in keeping with a district which the designation report states was influenced by the design of the English Garden suburbs developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

We recommend that the Commission ensure that the city agency responsible provide evidence of a feasible plan for maintenance of these planting strips, including removing litter from planting beds, graffiti from the new walls, and caring for or replacing the plants as required.

Thank you, commissioners.

Approved 7-0.

Approximate time: 10:30; join Zoom by: 9:30

LPC-26-08779 -- 406-410 MacDonough Street - Bedford-Stuyvesant/Expanded Stuyvesant Heights Historic District, Brooklyn

Good morning commissioners, _____ for the Victorian Society New York.

This proposal has much to recommend it. We do not believe the garage contributes to the historic district, so its demolition would be appropriate. The new building is appropriate in scale, height, and materials. The recessing of the end bays for balconies relieves what might otherwise be a monotonous façade.

However, we note that this building would have the widest street frontage of any on the block and would far exceed that of the typical neighboring rowhouses, which largely give the block its historic architectural rhythm. We recommend introducing vertical elements into the façade to make its scale and massing more consistent with most buildings on the block.

We also would prefer to see higher quality material for the building's base. Recent experience with pre-cast concrete shows that, as it is typically manufactured today, its appearance is rather poor right from the start, and it weathers poorly as well. Limestone, terra cotta, or another type of natural stone would be much better.

No action; consider revising materials and/or color of front base and side and rear walls.

Approximate time: 11:45; join Zoom by: 10:45

LPC-26-07271 -- 14 Bank Street - Greenwich Village Historic District, Manhattan

Good morning commissioners, _____ for the Victorian Society New York.

This is a proposal for a very large roof deck, and because it is so big its railings will be very highly visible. The deck should be smaller and the railings pulled back so they are less visible. They certainly should not physically engage with the chimneys.

Approved 8-0, with applicant to work with staff on details of guardrail design and moving it back from the Bank Street façade.