



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE EAST NEW YORK SAVINGS BANK**

June 14, 2016

My name is Lauren George, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). I am here to testify on the designation of the East New York Savings Bank, 1117 Eastern Parkway at Utica Avenue in Brooklyn, as an individual landmark.

On June 28, 2011, the LPC held a hearing on the proposed designation of the East New York Savings Bank Building and the related Landmark site. The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One person spoke in favor of designation, a representative of the Historic Districts Council, and there were no speakers opposed. Council Member Laurie Cumbo sent a letter in support of designation of the bank, and the Commission also received a support letter from the New York Landmarks Conservancy. This designation was approved unanimously by the Commission at a public meeting on March 8, 2016.

The East New York Savings Bank Building is located on the northwest corner of Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue, at the juncture of Weeksville and Brownsville, in Brooklyn. Originally called the Parkway Branch, it faces Eastern Parkway, a New York City Scenic Landmark that runs from Grand Army Plaza to Brownsville. As one of the most impressive structures along the parkway's tree-lined route, it was built shortly after the opening of the IRT subway, which attracted considerable commercial activity to Utica Avenue. Construction began in November 1927 and was completed in December 1928. At the time of construction, this structure would be the bank's second and most architecturally-ambitious branch.

Holmes & Winslow were New York City architects specializing in bank design. The bank was built in a neo-Romanesque style with art deco style details, displaying classical aspects such as the use of symmetry and a prominent bracketed cornice. The design of this bank was influenced by the landmarked Bowery Savings Bank on East 42nd Street in Manhattan, with a similar recessed archway.



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This dramatic architectural feature served as the bank's main entrance, giving the branch an impenetrable, fortress-like quality. Rene Paul Chambellan, who created architectural sculptures for many New York City landmarks, including the Chanin and Daily News Buildings, as well as the fountains at Rockefeller Center, designed the remarkable bronze doors that face Eastern Parkway, as well as the "Commerce" and "Industry" reliefs and medallions along the façade.

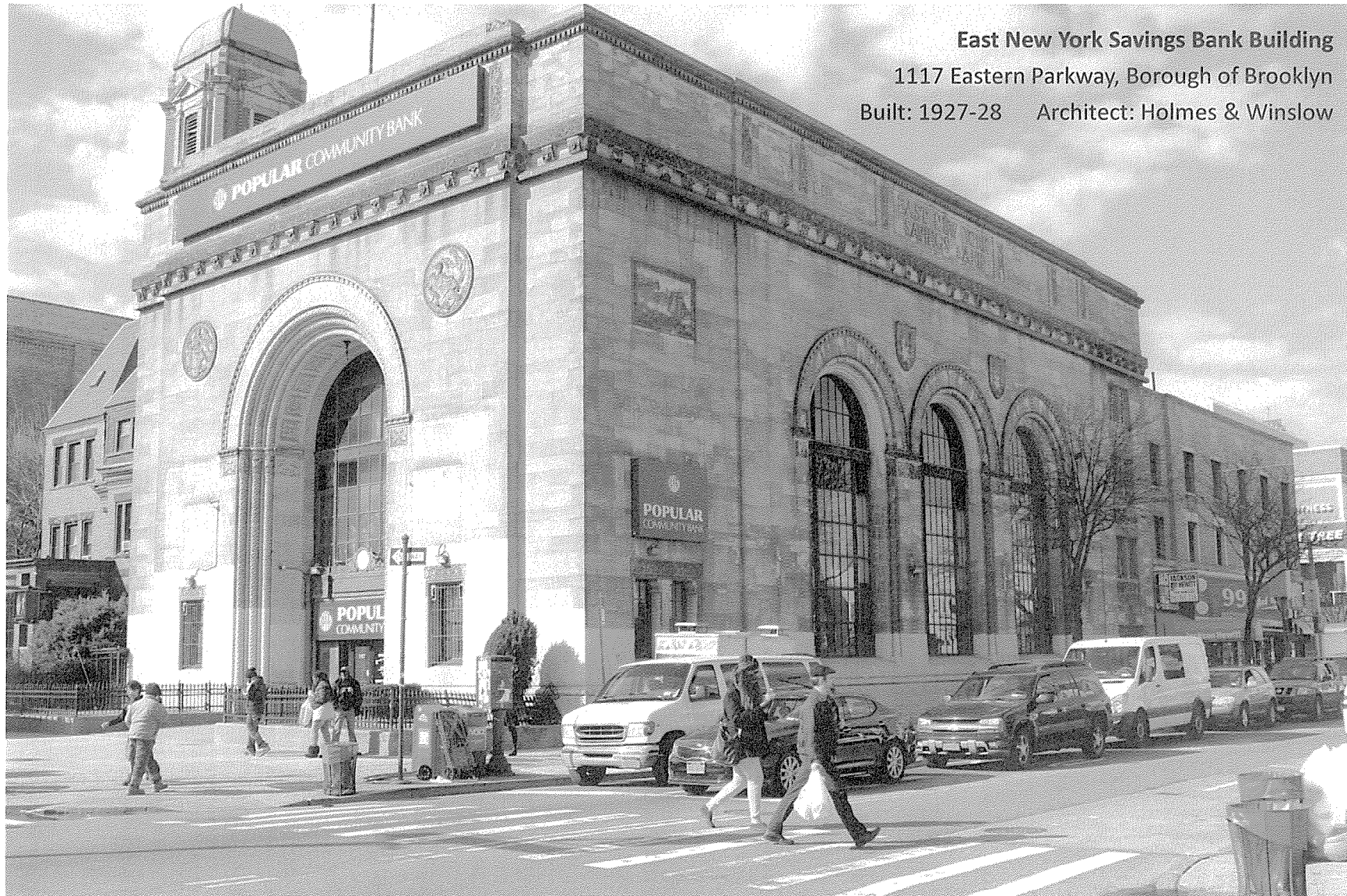
The east facade, facing Utica Avenue, is decorated with bees and honeycombs, as well as depictions of men hauling full satchels. In 1929 the design journal *Metal Arts* described the building as "delightful" and "one of the finest bank structures of its kind." After completion, a special appreciation dinner was held to honor the 250 plumbers, masons, painters, contractors, architects and carpenters who participated in the building's construction.

The East New York Savings Bank is a grand building celebrating Brooklyn's commercial past in an area with few recognized individual landmarks. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm this designation. Thank you.

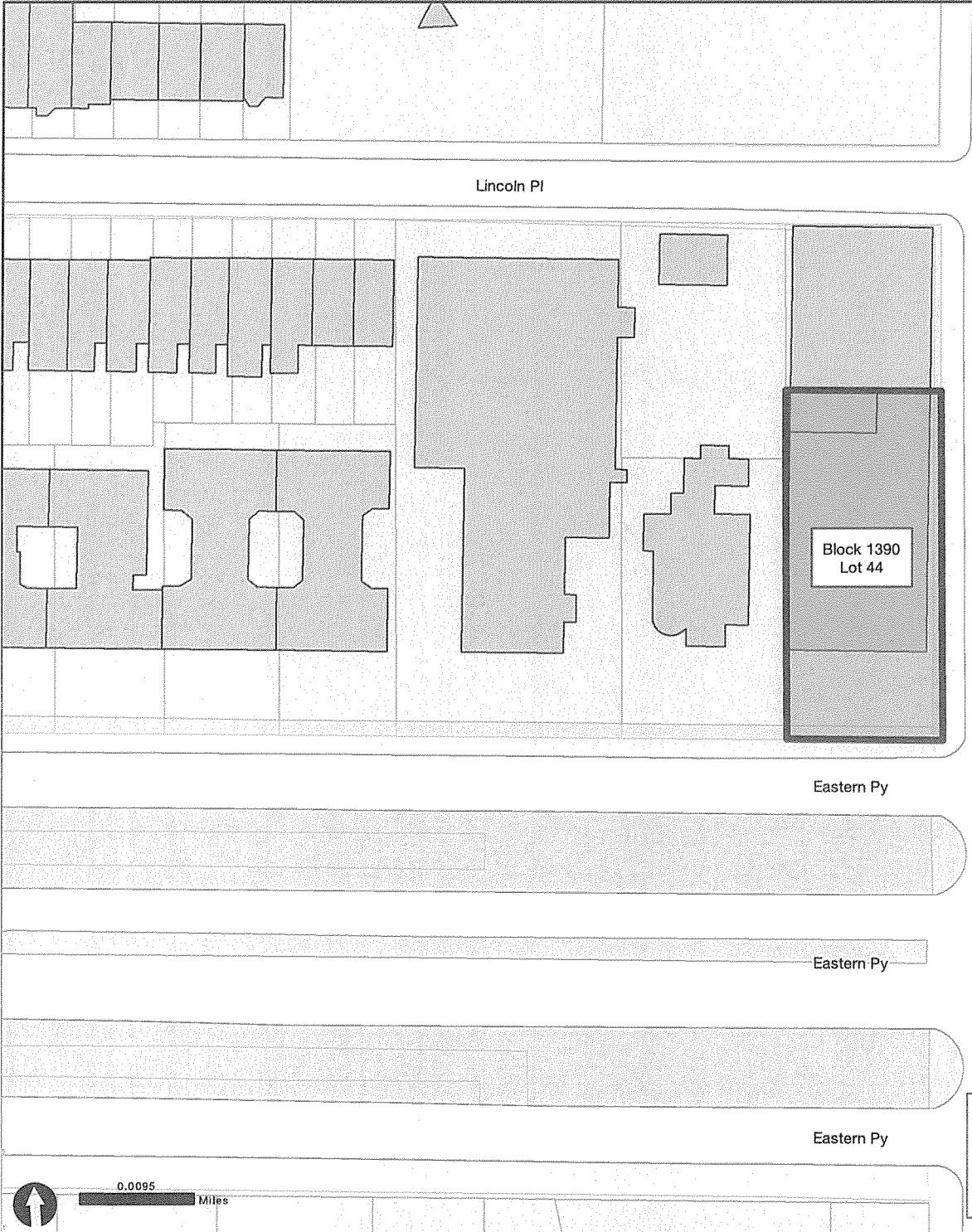
Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair

1 Centre Street, 9th FL, New York, NY 10007 ♦ 212-669-7855 ♦ www.nyc.gov/landmarks

Landmarks Preservation Commission



East New York Savings Bank Building
1117 Eastern Parkway, Borough of Brooklyn
Built: 1927-28 Architect: Holmes & Winslow



Block 1390
Lot 44

Utica Av

Lincoln Pl

Eastern Py

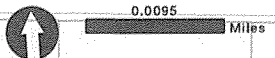
Eastern Py

Eastern Py

Legend

- Landmark Site
- New York City Tax Map Lots

1123A Eastern Parkway (aka 1117 Eastern Parkway (display address) and 270-278 Utica Avenue)
 Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn, Tax Map Block 1390, Lot 44
 Public Hearing: June 28, 2011
 Designated: March 8, 2016



**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. East NY Burt Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Owen

Address: _____

I represent: Landmarks Preservation Commission

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lauren George

Address: _____

I represent: Landmarks Preservation

Address: Commission

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms