

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DRAFT

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation
other names/site number English Lutheran Church / Citadel Cathedral of Praise and Worship
name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 105 Barbey Street ☐ not for publication
city or town Brooklyn ☐ vicinity
state NY code NY county Kings code 047 zip code 11207

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION / Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION / Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick, Terra Cotta

roof: Asphalt

other:

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1908, the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (English Lutheran Church) was designed in the English Gothic Revival style by the New York-based architecture firm of William P. Bannister (1869-1939) and Richard M. Schell (1874-1924).¹ Located in the Cypress Hills neighborhood of East New York, in Brooklyn, the church occupies two lots on the east side of Barbey Street, just north of Arlington Avenue in a predominantly residential neighborhood. The building is rectangular in plan, clad in buff brick with decorative terra cotta elements, and contains Gothic features such as quoins, pinnacles, belt courses, and blind arches. The main façade has three bays. The front-gabled center bay is flanked by a three-stage square tower on the northwest corner and a side-gable transept on the southwest corner. Other noteworthy features include colorful stained glass, triple-lancet windows on the west, north, and south façades, and elaborate pinnacles atop the tower. The building's interior and exterior retain a significant degree of architectural integrity.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting:

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation is located at 105 Barbey Street in the Cypress Hills neighborhood, a sub-section of the larger nine-square-mile residential neighborhood of East New York in northeastern Brooklyn. The neighborhood is bordered by Cypress Hills Cemetery to the north, the borough of Queens to the east, Brooklyn's Canarsie, Brownsville, and Bushwick neighborhoods to the west, and Jamaica Bay to the south. The church is one block north of Fulton Street, a major east-west commercial artery lined with three-story retail shops, restaurants with residences above, and the remaining segment of the Fulton Street elevated subway line (now used by the A train), completed in 1915.

English Lutheran Church sits on the east side of Barbey Street on a trapezoidal city block. The densely populated residential block is primarily built up with two-story wood-frame nineteenth-century houses. The church sits on a rectangular-shaped plot a quarter of the way north of Arlington Avenue. The parcel, comprised of two city lots, is sixty feet wide by ninety-five feet deep. Wood-framed residential properties are located near, but do not abut, the sides and rear of the church. The church is set back approximately eight feet from the sidewalk, which is lined by tree plots at the front. A raised tile terrace enclosed by recently-installed wrought iron fencing leads from the sidewalk to the main doors. The nomination boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation.

Building Description:

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation is a roughly two-story, four-bay by six-bay church with a rectangular plan. The west-facing façade, which is divided into a central gable, tower, and side-gabled transept, is fully visible from the street. The west façade and north and south returns (to a depth of about fifteen feet) are clad in buff brick with terra cotta elements designed to give the appearance of decorative limestone quoins, sills, lintels, pinnacles, blind arches, water table, belt courses, and coping. The remaining

¹ "W. P. Bannister, 70, an Architect Here," *The New York Times*, January 10, 1939, p. 19; Personal communication with Jocelyn Wilk, Columbia University Archives, June 7, 2019.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

exterior walls are clad in red common brick and devoid of any ornamentation. Camelback terra cotta coping covers the parapet walls on the sides and rear of the church. Wrought-iron grilles protect all of the windows on the ground floor.² The church has a cruciform-shaped sanctuary, shed-roofed side aisles flanking the central nave, and a flat-roofed organ chamber and sacristy on each side of the chancel.

Façade (west elevation)

The asymmetrical façade has three masses: a central three-story front-gabled main section (west end of the nave), a four-story tower on the north, and a two-story, side-gabled transept on the south. The tower and transept project slightly forward from the main center portion of the building. On the first story, the entrance doors are framed by a slightly-projecting decorative terra cotta frame. Two sets of paired oak entrance doors with wrought iron strap hinges, large iron handles, and brass kick plates are recessed within the frame. Both pairs of doors are topped with a flat arch constructed of terra cotta voussoirs. Above the flat arch is a blind arcade that extends the full width of the decorative door frame, wrapping around two projecting tower-like engaged piers on each end, capped with conical spires and bulbous finials. Polished brass wall sconces were installed flanking the entrance in 2017-18, replacing smaller mid-twentieth-century light fixtures. The entrance is flanked by two narrow windows with quoined surrounds. On the second story, a tripartite window with quoins, a voussoir lintel, and a label mold is located over the entrance. On the third story, a triple-lancet window extends into the central gable. It also features a terra cotta surround with quoins crowned by a projecting hood mold. Label stops with a decorative acanthus motif adorn each end of the hood mold. The peak of the gable is decorated with a blind arcade and topped with a Celtic cross that rises above the roof peak. At the north, the gable end engages with the tower; at the south, the gable roof appears to flare, concealing an angle buttress on the south return wall. The angle buttress at the southwest corner of the gable is accented with decorative quoining. The gable end of the roof and the angle buttress have a modestly ornamented saddleback coping.

On the north, a three-staged tower is supported by setback or tiered brick buttresses. The structure rises from grade to a chamfered terra cotta water table with a striated texture to resemble dressed limestone. Above the water table, the first stage of the tower contains paired windows topped with blind arches and hood molds. Recently installed wrought iron security grilles secure all of the first-floor windows. Above them, a tripartite stained-glass window marks the end of the first stage. The second stage of the tower begins with a terra cotta belt course with quatrefoils. A single arched window with a hood mold and acanthus leaf label stops is above the beltcourse. A terra-cotta beltcourse and two rectangular windows are located at the top of the second stage. The third stage of the tower begins with a third belt course that transitions into the belfry. Arched-head, paired belfry louvers were replaced in 2019 with paired windows surrounded with plywood and capped with a hood mold. This was done to reduce the infiltration of water and birds into the belfry. The upper-most stage of the tower has an arcaded parapet and spires with crockets and finials at each corner. One pinnacle on the tower has lost its finial. The three remaining exposed sides of the tower appear to have a similar form, excluding one basement window on the north facade.

On the south, the two-story side-gabled transept features, from bottom to top, a water table, paired windows topped with blind arches and hood molds, a tripartite window, and a belt course with quatrefoils. The transept is designed to appear as a lower, two-stage tower on the façade. Setback buttresses made of brick topped with decorative terra cotta caps flank each side of the mass. The pinnacles on the second stage of the buttresses project above the eave.

² These security grilles and wrought iron fence at the front of the church are not original, but appear in the 1980's New York City tax photo, and were likely installed in the 1970's.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

North elevation

The north elevation consists of the following masses, from west to east: the north-facing side of the tower, the side aisle with clerestory above, the gable end of the north transept, and an organ chamber with a flat roof. This elevation of the buff brick tower is identical in design to the façade, with the addition of one basement window. The remainder of the north elevation is red brick in common bond covered in light-colored stucco and painted a cream color. The side aisle is roughly two stories high, divided into two bays, and set back slightly from the tower and north transept. It features two basement windows and two tripartite stained-glass windows at the sanctuary level directly above. The gable end of the north transept is roughly three stories high and contains three rectangular windows at the basement level and three triple-lancet windows at the sanctuary level. A narrow chimney rises from the northwest corner of the transept. The organ chamber, which projects out slightly, is a solid brick mass of roughly two stories and contains a low, flat roof. In the chancel, which extends above and just beyond the organ chamber, there is a single, narrow arched stained-glass window. The window frames, gutters, and downspouts are painted brown.

East elevation

The east elevation, or rear, of the building features the gable end of the chancel in the center, the organ chamber on the north, and a sacristy with a low, flat roof on the south. The chancel projects slightly outward from the organ chamber and sacristy. The gable end of the chancel features a pointed arched stained-glass window. The organ chamber features a window with a bronze iron gate and exterior double doors at the basement level. The window and door frames are painted bronze. The doors lead to a small patio surrounded by wooden fencing at the rear and a black metal gate on the north corner. The sacristy features a single double-hung window at the sanctuary level and an exterior double door and window at the basement level. Immediately outside the door is a small rectangular paved patio enclosed by plastic fencing. Layers of stucco and a cementitious waterproofing material have been applied to portions of the brick rear wall.

South elevation

Obscured to a large extent by the house next door, the south elevation consists of the following masses from left to right: gable-end of the southwest transept, side aisle with clerestory above, gable end of the south transept, and the sacristy. The gable end of the southwest transept projects forward slightly from the side aisle and features a tripartite window on the upper level and a single stained-glass window on the lower level. The side aisle, which is divided into two bays, is set back slightly and has two tripartite stained-glass windows on the upper level and two basement windows directly below. Directly above are two stained-glass clerestory windows. The gable end of the south transept features a triple lancet window at the sanctuary level and three basement windows. The sacristy, which projects out slightly forward from the south transept, is a solid brick mass. In the chancel, which extends above and beyond the sacristy to the right, there is a clerestory window and a single, narrow arched window on the upper level. Stucco and a cementitious material have been applied to the brick walls.

Interior Description

The church interior is divided into three primary levels: a basement, an intermediary entrance vestibule, and raised sanctuary. The entrance to the church leads directly to a rectangular intermediary vestibule with a tile floor landing and painted plaster walls. Three sets of steps lead from the vestibule; one, across from the entrance doors, leads to the basement, and two sets of stairs, on the far north and south ends of the entrance vestibule,

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

lead to the sanctuary. A cased opening directly across from the entrance doors leads to the basement stairs; these stairs contain historic wooden newels of landed post variety and are turned or twisted in form. The stairs and railing leading to the sanctuary are made of oak, retain historic trim and beadboard, and are finished with a dark brown stain. On both sides, the staircases terminate at small foyers at the sanctuary level. Each foyer contains two sets of double doors that open to the main sanctuary and the side aisles.

The basement is divided into a large social hall, a kitchen, classrooms, and bathrooms. At the bottom of the stair hall, a door on the left opens to a recently installed lady's lounge and a bathroom. A door on the right leads to a recently remodeled kitchen with access to a sub-basement. Directly ahead, a double door with a leaded glass transom opens to the social hall. The hall is a large, open room with painted plaster walls and a hardwood floor. Cast iron columns support the floor of the sanctuary above. Polished wood coverings for the columns and crystal chandeliers were recently installed. Wide double-hung windows with clear glass panes line the north and south walls. There is a raised stage at the far east end of the room. Behind the stage is a secondary space historically used for classrooms. The north and south rear corners of the basement contain stairs ascending half a level to the rear entrance doors. The northeast corner stair continues upward to the upper-level sacristy. In 2021 an elevator shaft was installed in the southeast corner to enable access to the sanctuary.

Sanctuary

The sanctuary is a large, open two-story space with rows of pews, a rear balcony, and an altar. The pews and the flooring of the sanctuary are darkly stained hardwood. Four rows of east-facing pews, separated by three main aisles, fill the nave. The central rows of pews are wider and the outermost pews are narrower in length. A cross is carved in the arched ends of each pew. Wooden chair rails run along the nave walls. Below the chair rail, the walls display recently installed floral wallpaper. The walls above the chair rail are painted plaster and surround the sanctuary's stained-glass windows. Other recent additions include wood floor coverings.

The northwest and southwest corners of the nave feature lower ceilings extending over the rear aisles. The ceiling is supported by simple Roman columns with smooth, unfluted shafts and simple capitals decorated with acanthus leaves on each corner. Decorative wood moldings rise from the center of each column and form an arched frame over the clerestory window above. The center rear of the nave also has a dropped ceiling that supports a balcony above.

At the front of the sanctuary, four wooden steps with recently installed brass handrails rise to the chancel. The chancel features a pulpit and an eagle lectern. Wooden pews for the choir and a communion rail which appear in historic photos from 1909 have been removed. Another step leads to the altar, which is made of wood and is fixed against the east wall. The altar has a table with a reredos of wood adorned with an open cross made of brass. A recently replaced reredos rises to the bottom of the tripartite Gothic arched Ascension window above. The altar and window are surrounded by a large wood molding that forms an arch on the east wall of the sanctuary. Above the arch is a hood mold with decorative acanthus label stops; this was added as decoration over the new window.³ The chancel is flanked by projecting enclosed spaces on each corner: one for the sacristy and one for the organ. Each is supported by simple columns with acanthus leaves and has openings filled with accordion doors made of paneled cypress. Wooden Gothic arch molding extends above the columns onto the wall. On the left, the organ's face pipes sit atop wood panels on the interior walls of the organ chamber. The pipes conform to the shape of the arched opening into the organ chamber.

³ Examination of historic photos of the interior from 1909, 1967, and 2019 show that most of the changes that have taken place have occurred to the chancel in the east transept.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

The sanctuary and nave feature an open timber roof supported by a system of king post trusses, purlins and jack rafters made of cypress. Trusses running perpendicular to each other span the crossing from corner to corner. The trusses and beaded cypress sheathing on the ceiling are finished smooth and stained dark brown. The chandeliers present in 1909, which hung in the center of the nave, were later replaced with two rows of mid-century brass fixtures. Most recently, in 2018, crystal chandeliers have been hung in the center of the crossing and above the balcony

Stained-Glass Windows

Among the prominent features of the Sanctuary are its clerestory stained-glass windows, which are leaded, set deep in the walls, and surrounded with polished wooden casings. At the rear end of the sanctuary, below the balcony, is a rectangular tripartite window. Above the balcony is a triple-lancet window with quatrefoil tracery. The north and south walls near the rear feature paired arched clerestory windows with rondels in the center and floral geometric motifs. The side aisle walls contain rectangular tripartite windows with *fleur-de-lis* and foliage patterns. These are located just above a chair rail that runs the perimeter of the entire sanctuary. All of the above-mentioned windows incorporate a combination of yellow, green, blue, purple, red, and frosted stained glass.

The most pronounced pieces are the three large triple lancet windows on the north, south, and east walls. These windows incorporate darker shades of red, purple, blue, and brown, and express Biblical themes. The north wall window depicts Christ's earthly ministry: The Sermon on the Mount, The Blessing of Children, and the Healing of the Sick. The south wall window depicts Christ's death: Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, The Crucifixion, and Christ's burial. Both windows are capped with decorative hood molds with acanthus label stops. The most central piece is a large ascension window on the east altar wall that depicts Christ ascending to heaven surrounded by adoring angels.⁴ Large polished wood molding surrounds the Ascension window and forms an arch on the east wall of the sanctuary.

The three themed windows were manufactured by the Tyrolese Art Glass, Co. from Innsbruck, Austria, and purchased through Theo Rose, the company's New York-based representative. The north and south wall windows were installed between 1908 and approximately 1914.⁵ The Ascension window was a later addition dating from 1931.

The Pipe Organs

Carl Magnus Oman (1853-1910) installed the first organ in English Lutheran Church in 1908. The congregation brought it with them to this space from their earlier church on Pennsylvania Avenue.⁶ The church council contracted with Oman to repair, remove, and install the organ in the new church. He also installed decorative face pipes in the chancel arches. This small two-manual, mechanical-action organ had only two 16-foot stops in the pedal division. William Hess installed a water pump to power the motor for the organ in its new location. In 1928, the Austin Organ Company installed a much larger three-manual pipe organ (Opus 1596) in the

⁴ Personal communication with Riccardo Gomes, June 17, 2019.

⁵ There is documented evidence for plans for additional windows by the Tyrolese Art Glass, Co. that were either never executed or the final designs were later changed. Subjects selected for the four sets of small triplet windows include: His Birth, His Presentation, His Visit to the Temple, and His Baptism. The Reformation in Three Scenes was intended for the triplet on the west wall. The clerestory windows over the nave were to pay homage to the four evangelists. Luther's Coat of Arms was to be the theme of the clerestory window over the sacristy. Instead, leaded glass windows with a simpler geometric and floral motif were installed in these openings.

⁶ C. M. Oman, *Articles of Agreement*, 1908.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**

Name of Property

Kings County, NY

County and State

sanctuary, which is currently in disrepair. The Austin organ was recently moved from its original location in the choir to the right side of the front of the nave, on the main floor.

The Bell Tower

The northwest corner of the nave where the vestibule stair enters the sanctuary also contains an original metal circular stairway leading up to the tower. The upper portion that formerly held Carillonic Tower Bells was completely renovated with new wooden floors and windows and now serves as an office.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic History: European / German

Architecture

Period of Significance

1908 – ca. 1970

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

European / German

Architect/Builder

William P. Bannister, architect

Richard M. Schell, architect

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the church extends from 1908, when it was constructed, through ca. 1970, when the congregation declined as a result of changes in neighborhood demographics.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

While the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation is owned by a religious institution, the property is primarily significant for its architectural distinction and historical role in the cultural and social development of Brooklyn.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (English Lutheran Church) is significant under Criteria A in the area of Ethnic History – European/German as one of the earliest Lutheran churches of Brooklyn to offer English worship services to families of German ancestry. In the late 1890s, a minority of members of the traditional German Lutheran congregation of Brooklyn split off to form English Lutheran Church based on a desire to receive Lutheran service in the English language. From a financially disadvantaged position, English Lutheran went on to obtain a significant degree of success through the growth of its congregation. It erected a new edifice in 1909 with the financial support of dedicated congregants, reverends, and prominent figures like the ex-mayor of Brooklyn, Charles Schieren. Fellow Lutheran churches in Brooklyn would later celebrate the church as a turning point in the history of Lutheranism for its precedent of providing English service.

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation is significant under Criteria C in the area of architecture as a highly intact example of the English Gothic Revival style. The building was constructed in 1909 by the New York-based architects William P. Bannister and Richard M. Schell, who specialized in ecclesiastic buildings. The edifice features elements of Gothic design, including lancet windows, blind arches, pinnacles, and spires. The choice of the English Gothic Revival style reflects the architectural shift of the early twentieth century away from Romanesque Revival to a more modern iteration of Gothic Revival.⁷ The church building was distinctive among Christian Lutheran denominations in Brooklyn at the time. While the English Gothic Revival style differed from the German Gothic Revival of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the design was nevertheless familiar to German immigrants.⁸ Rather than hiring a German architect, however, English Lutheran's founders deliberately chose to hire a New York-based architectural firm specializing in English Gothic Revival style. This choice was consistent with the overall tendency of the congregants to value assimilation to the mainstream, English-speaking culture in Brooklyn, rather than adhering strictly to German tradition.

The period of significance for the church extends from 1908, when it was constructed, through ca. 1970, when the congregation declined as a result of changes in neighborhood demographics.

Narrative Statement of Significance

East New York, Brooklyn, NY

In the 1620s, the Netherlands colonized the wider region of New York City under the jurisdiction of New Amsterdam. Dutch settlers purchased the territory of present-day East New York from Canarsee Indians, though they would subsequently skirmish with these natives over the land. The Dutch used enslaved labor to clear forest land, facilitate cultivation and grazing, and build houses with cleared lumber. One area of settlement encompassed a former indigenous trail known today as New Lots Avenue. It stretched from the settlement of Flatbush to the town of New Lots.⁹ In the next century, the British annexed New Amsterdam under the jurisdiction of New York.

⁷ National Register of Historic Places, North Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, New York, 2013, 8.

⁸ National Register of Historic Places, German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, Brooklyn, New York, 2018, 18.

⁹ Brian Merlis and Riccardo Gomes, *Brooklyn's East New York and Cypress Hills Communities* (New York: Gomerl Publishing, 2010), 1.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

In 1835, Joseph Pitkin, a wealthy Connecticut merchant, purchased farmland in then-Flatbush as a real estate venture to establish a manufacturing city he would name “East New York.” The community grew slowly over the next couple of decades. East New York would sever ties with Flatbush in 1852. It was annexed into the City of Brooklyn in 1886, which became part of New York City in 1898.

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, East New York slowly urbanized from a rural landscape into a commercial center. Before 1886, dirt roads were still common, as were streets paved with cobblestones or stone blocks. Farmland was covered with corn fields.¹⁰ An 1886 insurance map of East New York depicts a largely underdeveloped area surrounding the block where English Lutheran Church currently stands.¹¹ That same year, the streets of Cypress Hills were paved, and sewers were laid. A 1908 fire insurance map indicates that the same block had undergone major development, now lined with large, wood-frame houses.¹² The two plots where the church would be built were empty at this time.

The neighborhood of Cypress Hills was not fully developed until the twentieth century. The 1903 opening of the Williamsburg Bridge allowed New York City residents to move from crowded Manhattan neighborhoods to East New York where they found fresh air, recreational space, and employment opportunities. With these conditions in place, Cypress Hills grew from a quiet, rural community into a thriving suburban development with houses, tenements, railroads, mass transit, schools, churches, and commercial and industrial facilities. By 1919, nearly every residential block of Cypress Hills was filled.¹³

German Lutherans in New York City (Nineteenth Century)

Early East New York was also characterized by its large European immigrant population. From the mid-1800s through the first half of the twentieth century, waves of Germans, Irish, Polish, and Italians emigrated to the continental United States, especially to east coast urban areas like New York City. The German Revolution of 1848 pushed many German Lutherans to the city. These people sought refuge from religious persecution, political turmoil, civil unrest, and the economic hardship of severe unemployment and famine. A notable influx of Germans also arrived in New York City and Brooklyn after the American Civil War. East New York especially became a major hub for German Lutheran migrants, and many chose the northern neighborhood of Cypress Hills as their home.¹⁴

German migrants to East New York brought economic skills that allowed them to prosper in manufacturing and industrial trades such as cigar-making, leather hide manufacture, and breweries. They also preserved their language, religion, and culture and emphasized their heritage through regular cultural activities such as clubs, festivals, food, music, and dancing. One of the main anchors of German life in the U.S. was religion, namely German Lutheranism, a branch of Protestantism. Followers of this faith maintained close ties to their Lutheran denominations back home. Initial waves of emigres held steadfast to their German Lutheran traditions and

¹⁰ Rev. Paul R. Hoover, *The First Forty Years: February 13, 1898 - February 13, 1938 of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation* (Brooklyn, NY, 1938), 10.

¹¹ *1886 Map of Ward 26*, East New York.

¹² *1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*.

¹³ Rev. Paul R. Hoover, *The First Forty*, 10.

¹⁴ Alter F. Landesman, *A History of New Lots, Brooklyn: to 1887, Including the villages of East New York, Cypress Hills, and Brownsville* (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1977), 100-104.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

strove to maintain tight-knit communities with regular churchgoing. They viewed their worship as part of a greater missionary effort to spread and practice their faith outside of their homeland.¹⁵

Early Lutheran congregants preferred to worship in their native language to remain connected to their culture and homeland. One newspaper reported that, by 1887, only two of the twenty-one German Lutheran churches in New York made use of the English language in Sunday public service.¹⁶ However, most of these churches were located in New York (Manhattan). In 1845, Germans of East New York longed for a Church where they could hear sermons and service in German, without having to travel to New York (Manhattan). That year, they organized under the German Lutheran Missionary Society to fulfill their wish. In 1847, the Society established St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the first German Lutheran church of East New York (NR Listed, 2019). St. John's was the only Lutheran Church in the East New York neighborhood where congregants could count on worship services, Sunday school, and confirmation classes in the German language. St. John's Church began as an edifice on Schermerhorn street. Over the ensuing decades, it underwent a series of expansions and changes in location to accommodate its growing membership. St. John's was a cornerstone of religious life for many Germans of East New York.¹⁷ It was also the ancestor from which the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation would branch off.¹⁸

Precedents for the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (1847-1898)

With time, the desire of German emigres to prioritize their native language began to compete with another pressing demand. For a new generation of American-born Germans, the use of the English language was a necessary component of assimilation. Some German Lutherans began to ask for Lutheran service and education in the English language, something which they viewed as the best solution between both worlds. As one journalist at the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* suggested in 1887, "In time, what happened to the Dutch churches will happen to many, at least, of the German churches in Brooklyn, both Lutheran and Reformed. The young German race born in America will demand an English service. Nor will it be possible to resist the demand."¹⁹

It was ironically among some of the early congregants of St. John's that this wish for English service would be seriously considered. One of the key figures to advance the cause was a founding member of St. John's, Frederick Bischoff (1857-1942). The owner of a cocoa and chocolate manufacturing company located first in Manhattan and then later in Brooklyn, Bischoff was described in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* as "an old inhabitant of East New York."²⁰ Bischoff served as a founding member of the church council, and as Superintendent of its Sunday school, a position he had held for seventeen years. At some point in the 1890s, students of the confirmation class, including Bischoff's son Frederick, Jr., began to face language barriers. They found it difficult to be taught in German, preferring English. Looking ahead toward the new generation of American-born Germans, Bischoff and several other founding members decided to advocate for gospel services to be available in the English language.²¹

¹⁵ Landesman, *A History of New Lots, Brooklyn*, 100-104.

¹⁶ "German-Scandinavian: Factors in the Religious Life of Brooklyn," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 7, 1887.

¹⁷ St. Johannes Evangelisch was established and its first church built in 1847. In 1898, St. John's constructed its third church at 233 New Jersey Avenue. This church was sold in 1972 to its present congregation, Grace Baptist Church.

¹⁸ "Ready to Observe 65th Anniversary: St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 8, 1912.

¹⁹ "German-Scandinavian: Factors in the Religious Life of Brooklyn," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 7, 1887.

²⁰ Michael Laiskonis, "NYC: A History in Chocolate," <https://mlaiskonis.wordpress.com/>; "Lutheran Church Sixteen Years Old." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 10, 1914, 8.

²¹ "Lutheran Church Sixteen Years Old." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 10, 1914, 8.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

The St. John's council refused the request for English service on practical grounds, stating that the German-born pastor Rev. Dr. Holstein could not speak English. The council also denied permission to hire an English-speaking associate pastor to work with Dr. Holstein. Members of the congregation also expressed a cultural opposition to adopting a secondary language in their services. They voted to support the council's decision and discouraged Bischoff's plan. Undeterred by the opposition, seven members of the council, including Bischoff, decided to leave St. John's and consult the authorities of the New York and New England Synod for permission to start an English-speaking church.²² The Synod agreed to authorize the new church on the condition that Bischoff form an organizing committee of three men and obtain permission from the Lutheran pastor closest to the location of the proposed church. A final requirement was that the church would have to be located at a distance of at least fifteen blocks from the nearest Lutheran congregation.²³

Early History of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (1898-1908)

Despite early challenges, Bischoff and his fellow members would see their plans come to fruition. In February of 1898, they successfully formed their new congregation under the name English Lutheran Church of the Reformation. Bischoff procured a worship space originally built by a Swedish Lutheran congregation on Schenck Avenue between Liberty and Atlantic Avenues (this was technically only nine blocks from the German Lutheran St. John's). Bischoff rented this space from an Italian congregation that was about to disband, and he immediately set about to renovate it. Bischoff managed to bring thirteen members together on February 13, 1898, including husbands and wives; seven were former members of the St. John's congregation.²⁴

A key component to the success of English Lutheran Church was the simultaneous creation of the English Lutheran Missionary Society of Brooklyn, under the umbrella of the New York and New England Synod. Bischoff and other Lutheran allies formed the society in 1898 to promote English-language mission churches all over Brooklyn and nearby suburbs to instruct the children of German parents on the Lutheran faith in the English language.²⁵ The society provided critical funding for the formation of English Lutheran Church from its inception in February of 1898 until the church was financially self-sufficient in 1901.²⁶ Three local Lutheran pastors became founding members of the society: Rev. August Steimle of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Rev. H. S. Knabenschuh of Christ Lutheran Church, and Rev. S. G. Weiskotten, of the Church of the Redeemer.²⁷ These pastors sympathized with the cause and formed a critical backbone of support for English Lutheran Church.²⁸

²² The Synod here refers to the advisory council for the Lutheran denomination in the New York and New England area. There was also a General Synod organized in 1820 which oversaw multiple Lutheran Synods in New York state. (See: "German-Scandinavian: Factors in the Religious Life of Brooklyn," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 31, 1887).

²³ "Reformation Two Years Older than the Chat," *The Chat*, November 28, 1925.

²⁴ "Lutheran Church Sixteen Years Old," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 10, 1914; A later article from *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* stated that the Schenck avenue church was being used as a horse wagon shop when Bischoff acquired it. See: "Reformation Lutheran Church Reaches 50th Year," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 14, 1948.

²⁵ "New Missionary Society," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 21, 1898, 16; "Pulpit and Pew," *The Standard Union*, March 4, 1899, 4.

²⁶ "Mr. Schieren Sent a Check," *Brooklyn Times Union*, April 27, 1898, 3.

²⁷ Rev. Weiskotten would serve as the first president of the Society. See: "New Missionary Society," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 21, 1898, 16.

²⁸ Rev. Knabenschuh earlier had approached the old treasurer at St. John's about the prospect of starting an English-speaking church in East New York. The treasurer directed Knabenschuh to Bischoff and told him of Bischoff's plans to start an English-speaking church. In his history of the new church, Rev. Paul Hoover stated, "We see, therefore, that when St. John's congregation had to face the language question, the problem was not new and some of the ministers of the General Council were aggressively solving the problem (at least for the English-speaking members) by establishing English congregations." See: Hoover, *The First Forty Years*, 15.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

Prominent local German philanthropist and ex-mayor of Brooklyn Charles A. Schiere was another foundational figure in the formation of English Lutheran Church. Born in Dusseldorf, Germany in 1842, Schieren came to the US with his parents in 1856. He was a successful businessman in the leather belting industry and also served a two-year term as mayor of Brooklyn from 1894 to 1895. Alongside Bischoff, Schieren would be the first treasurer and later president of the English Lutheran Missionary Society, using the organization to financially support various local Lutheran Churches oriented toward English services. He stated during the society's first anniversary ceremony, "It is our duty to care for the immense German and Scandinavian population of this borough. The children of these foreign parents, who are educated in our public schools, desire English services. They do not understand nor appreciate services in a foreign tongue, and we must provide services for them where they can hear the language of the country in which they are educated."²⁹ On the first anniversary of English Lutheran in 1899, Schieren spoke to the congregation about the Lutheran church of his childhood and his reasons for interest in her progress.³⁰

Between February and June of 1898, the three local pastors --Rev. August Steimle, Rev. H. S. Knabenschuh, and Rev. S. G. Weiskotten-- each took turns every third Sunday to lead worship services. After the first few months of service, a pastoral call was extended to the Rev. Harry P. Miller, who was at the time a seminarian at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mount Airy, Philadelphia. Rev. Miller was installed as the official pastor of English Lutheran Church on June 26, 1898.³¹ Under his leadership, the church established the first Easter Dawn service in East New York.³² In just three years under Rev. Miller, from 1899-1901, English Lutheran Church's congregation had grown to 185 families, and attendance at Sunday school reached 500 to 600 students.

By 1901, the congregation needed a new building to accommodate its expanding membership.³³ English Lutheran Church held its last service in the Schenck Avenue location on May 12, 1901, and the congregation purchased a new plot on the southeast corner of Pennsylvania and Liberty Avenues for \$10,000.³⁴ The land contained a church building formerly owned by the East New York Congregational Mission. As early as 1904, when the church was celebrating its sixth anniversary, newspapers reported that the congregation had already outgrown this new space on Pennsylvania Avenue and an even larger building was needed.³⁵ In 1906, the congregation set about to sell the church on Pennsylvania Avenue on a large advance. In 1907, the congregation had grown to 350 members and members had set their sights on a plot of land on Barbey Street in Cypress Hills. A new building would be constructed to occupy the entirety of the "60X100" foot plot. This building, constructed in 1908-1909 is the subject of this nomination.³⁶

Construction of the Nominated Building: English Lutheran Evangelical Church of the Reformation on Barbey Street, 1908

²⁹ "Their First Anniversary: English Lutheran Missionary Society of Brooklyn Celebrates," *The Standard Union*, May 12, 1899, 2.

³⁰ "New Lutheran Church: Success of the English Society of the Reformation," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 3, 1899, 5.

³¹ "Pulpit and Pew," *The Standard Union*, March 4, 1899, 4.

³² Easter Dawn service or 'sunrise service' refers to a specific Protestant observance that typically takes place outdoors during Easter Sunday. See: "Easter: Liturgical Observances," Britannica, accessed September 6, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Easter-holiday/Liturgical-observances>.

³³ "English Lutherans to Praise Church Growth," *Brooklyn Times*, May 18, 1901.

³⁴ "Church's New Home," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 12, 1901; "English Lutherans to Praise Church Growth," *Brooklyn Times*, May 18, 1901.

³⁵ "Rapid Growth of Lutheran Church," *The Standard Union*, February 8, 1904, 5.

³⁶ "Two New Church Sites," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 2, 1906.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

The congregation commissioned Bannister and Schell, a prominent architectural firm specializing in church design, to draw plans for the new Barbey Street location. The church was to be designed in the English Gothic style and built of light-colored brick and terra cotta. The design plan had an estimated cost of between \$38,000 and \$40,000.³⁷ Frederick Bischoff, who served as treasurer on the church council at that time, contributed financially to the project. Charles Schieren's financial support was ongoing and included his commission for the three lancet windows on the north side of the sanctuary.³⁸ The groundbreaking for the church was held on June 21, 1908, and the cornerstone was laid on Sunday, August 9 of the same year.³⁹ The contractor confirmed that the building would be ready by Christmas.⁴⁰ The process had its share of problems, including construction delays, the challenge of importing windows from abroad, and disputes between church representatives and Bannister & Schell over costs.⁴¹

The firm of Bannister and Schell was formed in 1899 and consisted of two New York natives: William P. Bannister (1869-1939) and Richard Montgomery Schell (1874-1924).⁴² Their first office was located in the Presbyterian Building at 156, Fifth Avenue and 20th Street in Manhattan.⁴³ They subsequently moved to an office at 69 Wall Street.⁴⁴ The two architects worked together from 1899 to 1911, specializing in churches, tenements, and store-and-loft buildings. Some of their most prominent works included the Harlem Savings Bank (Now Apple Bank; 124 East 125th Street), the North Presbyterian Church built in 1905 (525 West 155th Street, Manhattan; NR Listed, 2014), the Holyrood Church in Washington Heights (1911; NR Listed, 2020), and the Collegiate Dutch Church (113 Fulton Street, Manhattan; demolished).

William P. Bannister was born in Manhattan. He began practicing architecture in 1886 and worked in several architectural offices before partnering with Schell. After Bannister and Schell dissolved in 1928, Bannister continued to practice independently, designing works such as the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation Incarnation (Fourth Avenue and Fifty-fourth Street, Brooklyn) and St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Eighty-fifth Street, and Eighty-seventh Road, Woodhaven, Queens).⁴⁵ Bannister was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and "identified prominently with the Brooklyn Chapter, American Institute of Architects, of which he had been a member for thirty-eight years."⁴⁶ He served as a member of the jury responsible for selecting architects for municipal employment under Mayor LaGuardia from 1916-1936. At the time of his death in 1939, he was Secretary of the New York State Board of Architectural Examiners.

Richard M. Schell was a graduate of Columbia University's School of Architecture. Before partnering with Bannister, he worked as an independent architect. He oriented work largely in the service of the Child Welfare Association, an organization he was deeply vested in. His early works were primarily for large institutions.

Bannister and Schell specialized in the Gothic Revival style, which they applied to a number of their churches in New York City, Long Island, and upstate New York. Their signature ecclesiastic design encompassed elements such as monotone brick and terra cotta facades, pinnacles, and lancet windows. During the turn of the

³⁷ "New Church Building to Cost \$40,000," *The Standard Union*, February 9, 1908, 24.

³⁸ "C. A. Schieren Dead, His Wife is Dying," *The New York Times*, March 11, 1915, 11.

³⁹ "To Break Ground Soon," *The Brooklyn Times Union*, June 9, 1908, 3.

⁴⁰ "Church Cornerstone Laying," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 8, 1908, 14.

⁴¹ Letter from Rev. Harry P. Miller to Mr. Charles Debold, May 9, 1913.

⁴² Personal communication with Jocelyn Wilk, Columbia University Archives, June 7, 2019.

⁴³ *Architecture and Building*, May 27, 1899, Vol 30, Issue 21.

⁴⁴ "Bannister & Schell," Landmarkhunter, <http://landmarkhunter.com/tag/52156-bannister-schell/>.

⁴⁵ "William Bannister Dies: Architect for 50 Years," *New York Herald Tribune*, January 10, 1939.

⁴⁶ "William Bannister Dies: Architect for 50 Years," *New York Herald Tribune*, January 10, 1939.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

twentieth century, the Gothic Revival style was undergoing a reemergence as church designs were increasingly moving away from the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style of the past. This shift was also in keeping with architectural theorists at the time. In 1914, influential Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram published *Church Building: A Study of the Principles of Architecture in Their Relation to the Church*, in which he lauded the Gothic Revival as a unique approach to adapting for city churches. Cram argued that features such as delicate archways, false buttresses, and terra cotta detailing offered an uplifting appearance that had been absent in the heavy Romanesque style.⁴⁷

A notable aspect of English Lutheran's design is the choice of Gothic Revival. While it was generally popular for church designs, it was less common among German institutions during the period. Since the early nineteenth century, many prominent German churches and commercial buildings were designed in the Rundbogenstil, an architectural style typically characterized by round-arched buildings with Romanesque or Italianate features. The Rundbogenstil came to be known as the standard "German" style. For example, the Reformed Church of Melrose in Bronx, NY (NR Listed, 2017), designed by German architect and builder Henry Piering, represents well this mid-nineteenth century German revivalist, Rundbogenstil architecture.⁴⁸

It is also notable that English Lutheran's design is specifically English Gothic Revival style in detail rather than German Gothic Revival. In their approach to English Gothic Revival style, Bannister and Schell followed the teachings of influential American architect Ralph Adams Cram. Cram proclaimed that ecclesiastic structures in this style should provide a visual continuum between medieval Catholic England and the modern urban context of American cities. According to Cram, "modern materialism and medievalistic idealism" should artfully coalesce. Specifically, Bannister & Schell reflected on this ideal by taking inspiration from the western facade of England's St. Alban's Cathedral in the city of Hereford. Its features included large, pointed arch openings divided into multiple lancets, stepped buttresses, and pinnacles. The interior of English Gothic Revival churches often included well-proportioned pointed arches separating the nave and aisles, a complex wood truss system over the nave, and wood side-aisle ceilings. This carefully studied adaptation of the English Gothic Revival style was often referred to as the academic Neo-Gothic style in the United States and was especially common among Episcopal church designs.⁴⁹

The English Lutheran congregation's choice to erect a building in the English Gothic Revival rather than the German Gothic Revival, or even Rundbogenstil, style appears to be deliberate. To be sure, congregation members would have identified similarities between their church's design and the German Gothic Revival of their homeland. But the decision to hire a New York-based architectural firm specializing in English Gothic Revival design rather than a German architect supports the congregation's apparent tendency to value assimilation into their Anglo-American context as opposed to maintaining strict adherence to German tradition and identity.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (1908-2014)

Despite the success of the congregation's new building on Barbey Street, the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation would have to contend with periods of financial hardship as a result of their investment. After the completion of the new building, the congregation struggled to pay off a debt that ranged from \$15,000 to \$32,000 for mortgage and construction costs. According to Rev. Harry C. Kline, the

⁴⁷ National Register of Historic Places, North Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, New York.

⁴⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Reformed Church of Melrose, Bronx, New York.

⁴⁹ National Register of Historic Places, Holyrood Protestant Episcopal Church, New York, New York, 2020, 14-16.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

congregation felt the burden of financial debt in the ensuing decade after the new building was erected: "[B]ills began to pour in upon them from the contractor, the architect, demands for interest and principal, etc., which caused many heartaches, but thank God, storms break and we have our lulls. The congregation responded nobly to the call of their pastor and met each issue squarely and honestly." Rev. Kline affirmed that the congregation was able to financially settle the bills with the help of internal fundraising efforts. Outside sources of revenue also played a major role, including a significant loan interest reduction and forgiveness by Muhlenberg College. During the pastorate of Pastor Harry C. Kline (1920-1935), an entire remaining debt of over \$15,000 for the construction of the church was paid off. This financial success also allowed the congregation to purchase a new pipe organ for \$12,000 during this period.⁵⁰

English Lutheran Church would continue to thrive in membership through the first half of the twentieth century. On December 31, 1912, after fifteen years of leading English Lutheran Church, Pastor Miller accepted a new call to Grace Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, PA.⁵¹ The Rev John C. Fischer, a young pastor from Philadelphia, was installed on April 1, 1913, and added one hundred new members to the church within a year. On Jan 1, 1920, Pastor Harry C. Kline assumed charge and would serve until 1935.⁵² Pastor Miller returned to English Lutheran Church to preach on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary in 1938, and his son returned to the church to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1948.⁵³ English Lutheran continued to thrive throughout the 1950s and 1960s, as the congregation orchestrated anniversary parades in the neighborhood, and celebrated regular holiday fairs.⁵⁴

By the middle of the twentieth century, new developments transformed the East New York area, such as the introduction of interstate expressways, new zoning laws, and changing business and banking practices. Industries that had employed many workers also moved out of the area. Frederick Bischoff, for example, moved his chocolate factory upstate to Ballston Spa in the 1920s.⁵⁵ Around the same time, residents of European descent began to leave the area of Cypress Hills, opting for the suburbs of New York. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, demographic shifts led to a more multi-ethnic Cypress Hills as African American and Latin American communities moved into the area. Other ethnic groups such as Haitians, Jamaicans, Indians, Pakistanis, Koreans, and Chinese soon followed.⁵⁶

Partly as a result of this transformation, beginning in the 1970s, the Lutheran churches of Brooklyn, such as St. Johns and Church of the Messiah, began to fall into decline. A decline in congregation membership affected these longstanding Lutheran churches. One member of the Church of the Messiah stated that, by the 1980s, "It was really the same people again and again. There were no more parades with the floats."⁵⁷ This overall decline

⁵⁰ "Church Celebrates its 30th Birthday," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 11, 1928.

⁵¹ "Pastor Miller Accepts Call to Pennsylvania," *The Standard Union*, November 22, 1912, 10.

⁵² "Church Celebrates its 30th Birthday," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 11, 1928; The departure date of Pastor Kline is indicated by a church plaque locate in the church basement.

⁵³ "Reformation Lutheran Church Reaches 50th Year," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 14, 1948.

⁵⁴ "Lutheran Church of the Reformation," The East New York Project, <http://www.tapeshare.com/Reformation.html>.

⁵⁵ Michael Laiskonis, "NYC: A History in Chocolate," <https://mlaiskonis.wordpress.com>.

⁵⁶ Kenneth T. Jackson, *The Neighborhoods of Brooklyn* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004), 86; Alter F. Landesman, *A History of New Lots*, 113.

⁵⁷ Colin Marston, "Two Churches. Too Many," Oct 23, 2017. <https://medium.com/the-brooklyn-ink/two-churches-too-many-5a8a99441300>.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

for Lutheran churches also likely affected English Lutheran, although little evidence attests to the status of the congregation in these later decades.⁵⁸

On February 1, 1973, English Lutheran Church called on its ninth and final pastor, Rev. John G. Huneke. Huneke steadily led the church for forty years until his death in the fall of 2013. Following Pastor Huneke's death, the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America closed English Lutheran Church with a special service of thanksgiving for Pastor's Huneke's life and the Rite for Closing a Church on February 23, 2014. Ownership of the church reverted to the Synod. According to the Synod, the closing of English Lutheran Church owed to a decline in membership which made it "impractical for Reformation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized." The Synod also cited recent financial hardships "as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition..."⁵⁹

In August of 2016, the Metropolitan New York Synod sold the church for \$2.3 million to The Citadel of Praise and Worship, a Pentecostal congregation largely serving the African American community of Cypress Hill. The present and founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin Bond, established the Citadel of Praise and Worship congregation in 1997 with only ten members.⁶⁰ The congregation first worshiped in the basement of a member's apartment complex. Later, the members rented space in various Brooklyn locations, in downtown Brooklyn, Clinton Hill, and Bedford Stuyvesant. Once established in this high-style and commodious historic church building in Cypress Hills, the congregation adopted the name "Citadel Cathedral of Praise and Worship." The current congregation of approximately 125 members seeks to provide for the needs of its East New York neighborhood through programs for single mothers. They provide health screenings, groceries, and outreach to members of their congregation and the surrounding community.

⁵⁸ "The East New York Project" documents church activities for English Lutheran, citing holiday fairs and parades up until around 1970. see: "Lutheran Church of the Reformation," The East New York Project, <http://www.tapeshare.com/Reformation.html>.

⁵⁹ "Lutheran Church of the Reformation," The East new York Project, <http://www.tapeshare.com/Reformation.html>.

⁶⁰ *Citadel of Praise and Worship Church Presents: Diamond Decade of Phenomenal Worship Experiences and Manifestations*, 2007.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Church Records:

Bannister and Schell, architects. *Materials and Labor Required for the Erection and Completion of the Church of the Reformation: Preliminary Specifications.*

C. M. Oman. *Articles of Agreement.* December 9, 1908.

Citadel of Praise and Worship Church Presents: Diamond Decade of Phenomenal Worship Experiences and Manifestations, 2007.

Hoover, Rev. Paul R. *The First Forty Years: February 13, 1898 - February 13, 1938 of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation.* Brooklyn, New York, 1938.

Letter from Rev. Harry P. Miller to Mr. Charles Debold. May 9, 1913.

Tyrolese Art Glass, Co. Theo Rose. *Articles of Agreement.* New York, September 11, 1908.

Tyrolese Art Glass, Co. Theo Rose. *Church of the Reformation: Subjects Selected for the Windows, Paintings, etc.*

Newspaper Articles:

"C. A. Schieren Dead, His Wife is Dying." *The New York Times*, March 11, 1915.

"Church Celebrates its 30th Birthday." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 11, 1928

"Church Cornerstone Laying." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 8, 1908.

"Church's New Home." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 12, 1901.

"English Lutherans to Praise Church Growth." *Brooklyn Times Union*, May 18, 1901.

"German-Scandinavian: Factors in the Religious Life of Brooklyn." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 31, 1887.

"Its Ninth Anniversary." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 12, 1907.

"Lutheran Church Sixteen Years Old." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 10, 1914.

"Mr. Schieren Sent a Check." *Brooklyn Times Union*, April 27, 1898.

"New Church Building to Cost \$40,000." *The Standard Union*, February 9, 1908.

"New Lutheran Church: Success of the English Society of the Reformation." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 3, 1899.

"New Missionary Society." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 21, 1898.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

"Pastor Miller Accepts Call to Pennsylvania." *The Standard Union*, November 22, 1912.

"Pulpit and Pew." *The Standard Union*, March 4, 1899.

"Rapid Growth of Lutheran Church." *The Standard Union*, February 8, 1904.

"Ready to Observe 65th Anniversary: St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 8, 1912.

"Reformation Church to be Dedicated." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 22, 1909.

"Reformation Lutheran Church Reaches 50th Year." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 14, 1948.

"Reformation Two Years Older than the Chat." *The Chat*, November 28, 1925.

"Their First Anniversary: English Lutheran Missionary Society of Brooklyn Celebrates." *The Standard Union*, May 12, 1899.

"To Break Ground Soon." *Brooklyn Times Union*, June 9, 1908.

"Two New Church Sites." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 24, 1906.

"Uptown Lutherans to Have New Church." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 2, 1926

"W. P. Bannister, 70, Architect, Dies." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, January 9, 1939.

"William Bannister Dies: Architect for 50 Years." *New York Herald Tribune*, January 10, 1939.

"Year of Mission Work." *Brooklyn Times Union*, May 12, 1899.

Secondary Sources

Architecture and Building. Vol 30, Issue 21 (May 27, 1899).

Armbruster, Eugene L. *The Eastern District of Brooklyn*. New York, NY, 1912.
<https://archive.org/details/easterndistricto00armb>.

"Bannister & Schell," LandmarkHunter, <http://landmarkhunter.com/tag/52156-bannister-schell/>.

"Easter: Liturgical Observances." Britannica. Accessed September 6, 2022.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Easter-holiday/Liturgical-observances>.

"German Gothic Art." Encyclopedia of Art History. Accessed April 12, 2018. <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/history-of-art/german-gothic-art.htm#architecture>.

Jackson, Kenneth T. *The Neighborhoods of Brooklyn*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004.

Laiskonis, Michael. "NYC: A History in Chocolate." *NYC: A History in Chocolate*.
<https://mlaiskonis.wordpress.com/>.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

Landesman, Alter F. *A History of New Lots, Brooklyn: to 1887, Including the Villages of East New York, Cypress Hills, and Brownsville*. Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1977.

"Lutheran Church of the Reformation." The East New York Project, <http://www.tapeshare.com/Reformation.html>.

Marston, Colin. "Two Churches. Too Many." Oct 23, 2017. <https://medium.com/the-brooklyn-ink/two-churches-too-many-5a8a99441300>.

Merlis, Brian and Riccardo Gomes. *Brooklyn's East New York and Cypress Hills Communities*. New York: Gomerl Publishing, 2010.

Nadel, Stanley. *Little Germany: Ethnicity, Religion, and Class in New York City, 1845-80*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990.

National Register of Historic Places, German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, Brooklyn, New York, 2018.

National Register of Historic Places, North Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, New York, 2013.

National Register of Historic Places, Reformed Church of Melrose, Bronx, NY, 2017.

Rauscher, Raymond Charles, and Salim Momtaz. *Brooklyn's Bushwick - Urban Renewal in New York, USA: Community, Planning and Sustainable Environments*. New York: Springer, 2014.

Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. First Edition. 2003.

Spellen, Suzanne. "Past and Present: Trommer's Evergreen Brewery and Restaurant." Brownstoner, January 10, 2014. <https://www.brownstoner.com/history/past-and-present-trommers-evergreen-brewery-and-restaurant/>.

Stiles, Henry Reed. *The Civil, Political, Professional and Ecclesiastical History, and Commercial and Industrial Record of the County of Kings and the City of Brooklyn, N.Y. from 1683 to 1884*. V. 2. New York, NY, 1884.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**

Name of Property

Kings County, NY

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.13

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>593865</u> Easting	<u>4503903</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

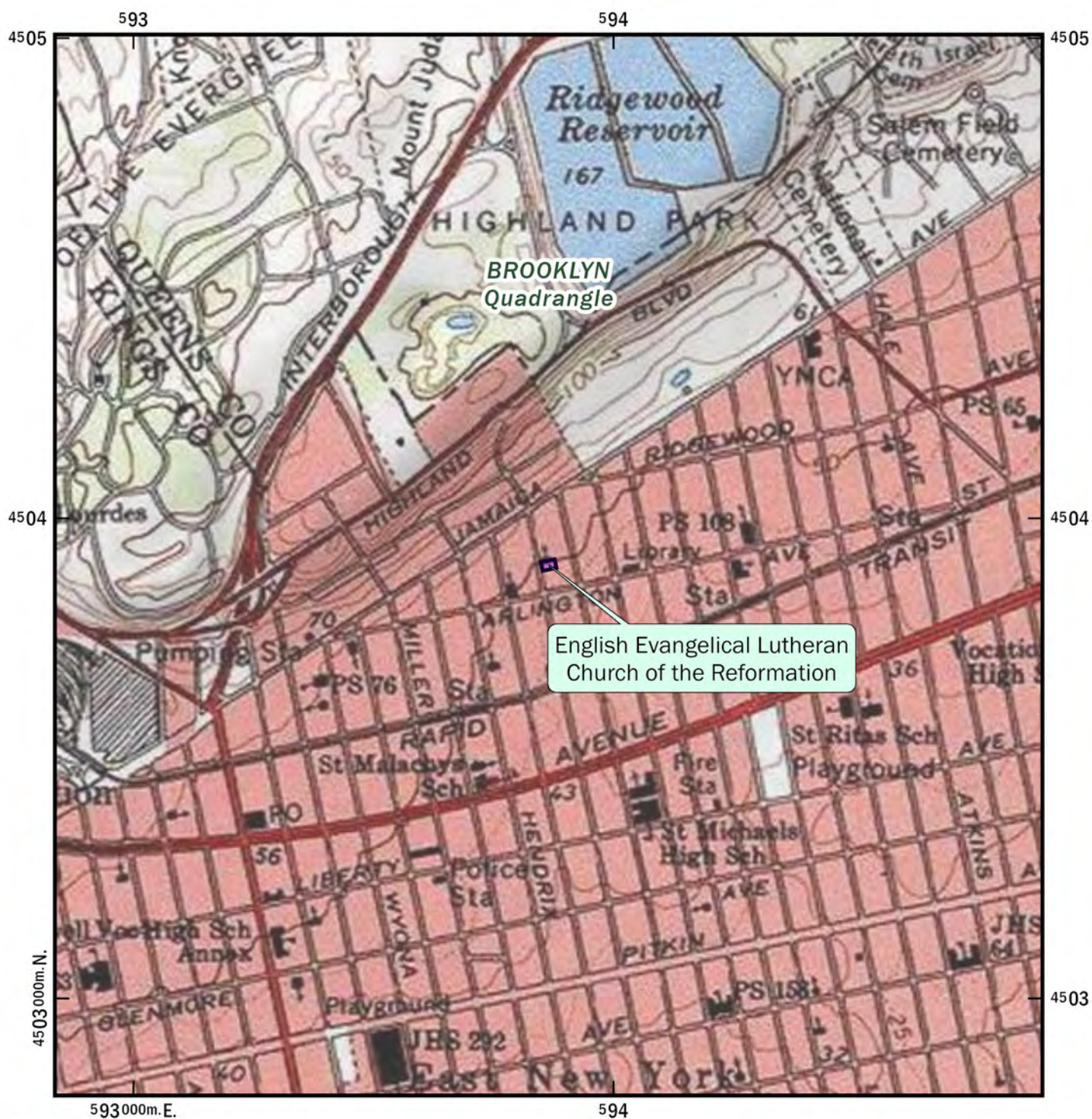
The boundary includes the parcel that has been historically associated with the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation.

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**

Kings County, NY

Name of Property

County and State



1:12,000

0 500 1000 ft



English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N (Meter)

Mapped 12/22/2022 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**

Name of Property

Kings County, NY

County and State

Note: The Kings County tax parcel boundaries appear to be inaccurate at this location.
Block 3921, Lot 2 has been offset 1.24 m S 11° 48' 12" E to approximate the correct parcel boundary.



1:1,200

0 50 100 ft



Nomination Boundary



Tax Parcels

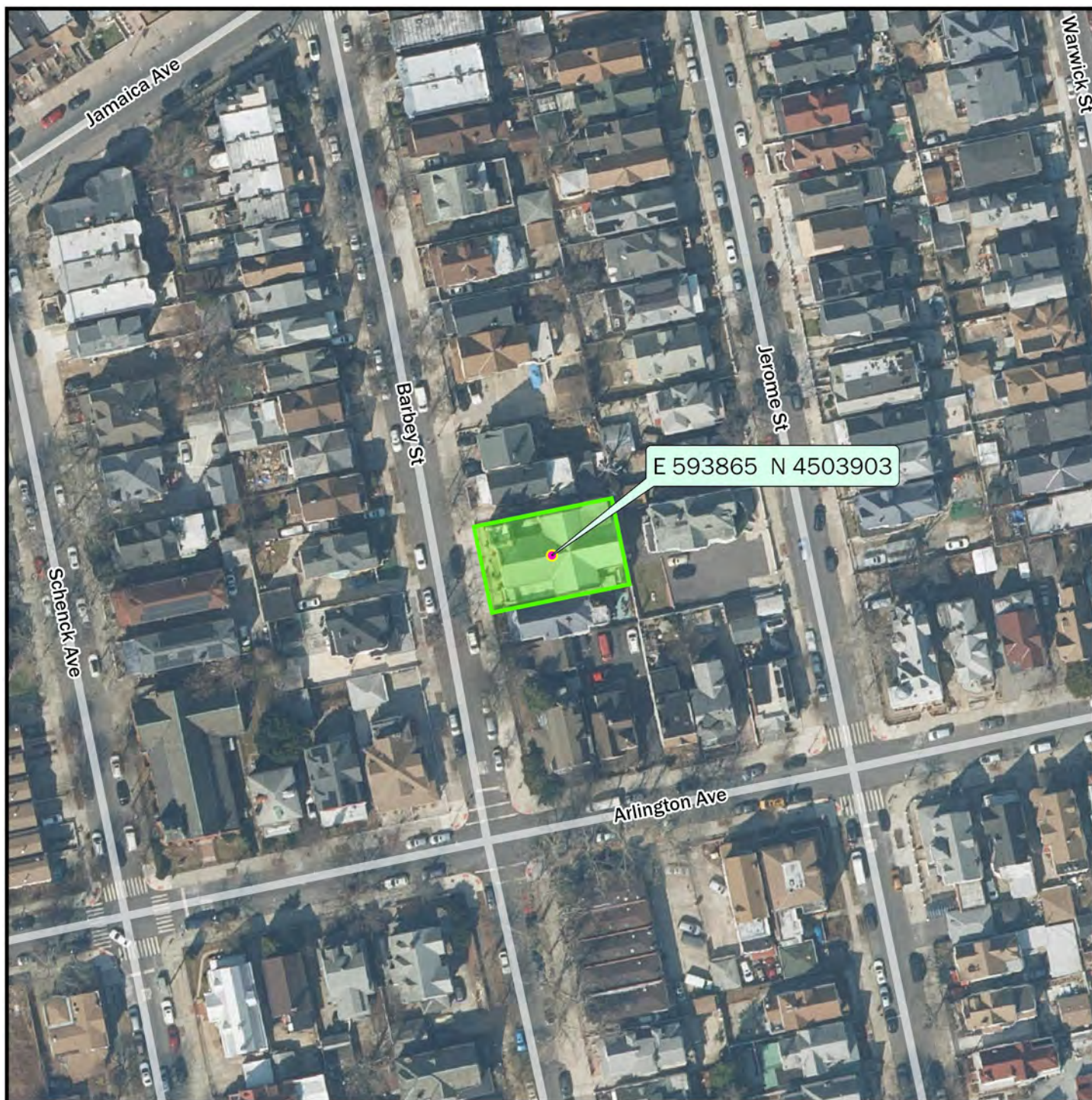


New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N (Meter) ♦ Kings County Parcel Year: 2021 ♦ Mapped 12/22/2022 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State



1:1,200

0 50 100 ft



Nomination Boundary



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N (Meter) ♦ New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2022 ♦ Mapped 12/22/2022 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vasken Markarian and John P. Smagner (edited by Jennifer Betsworth, NY SHPO)
organization University of Texas at Austin date December 2022
street & number 128 Inner Campus Dr., B7000 telephone 347-421-0382
city or town Austin state TX zip code 78712
e-mail vgmarkarian@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: Brooklyn

County: Kings State: NY

Photographer: John P. Smagner (unless otherwise noted)

Date Photographed: May 30, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0001
West façade, camera pointing east.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0002
South façade, camera pointing north.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0003
East façade, camera pointing west.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0004
North façade, camera pointing south-east.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0005
Chancel, camera pointing east. (Photo submitted by church)

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**

Name of Property

Kings County, NY

County and State

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0006
North transept and organ chamber, camera pointing north-east.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0007
South transept and sacristy, camera pointing south-east.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0008
Balcony, roof trusses, and pews, camera pointing west. (Photo submitted by church)

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0009
North side aisle, camera pointing north-west.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0010
Interior of front doors, vestibule, and basement stairs, camera pointing west.

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0011
Interior of social hall, camera pointing east. (Photo submitted by church)

NY_Kings Co_English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation_0012
Interior stairs to sanctuary, camera pointing north.

Kings County, NY
County and State

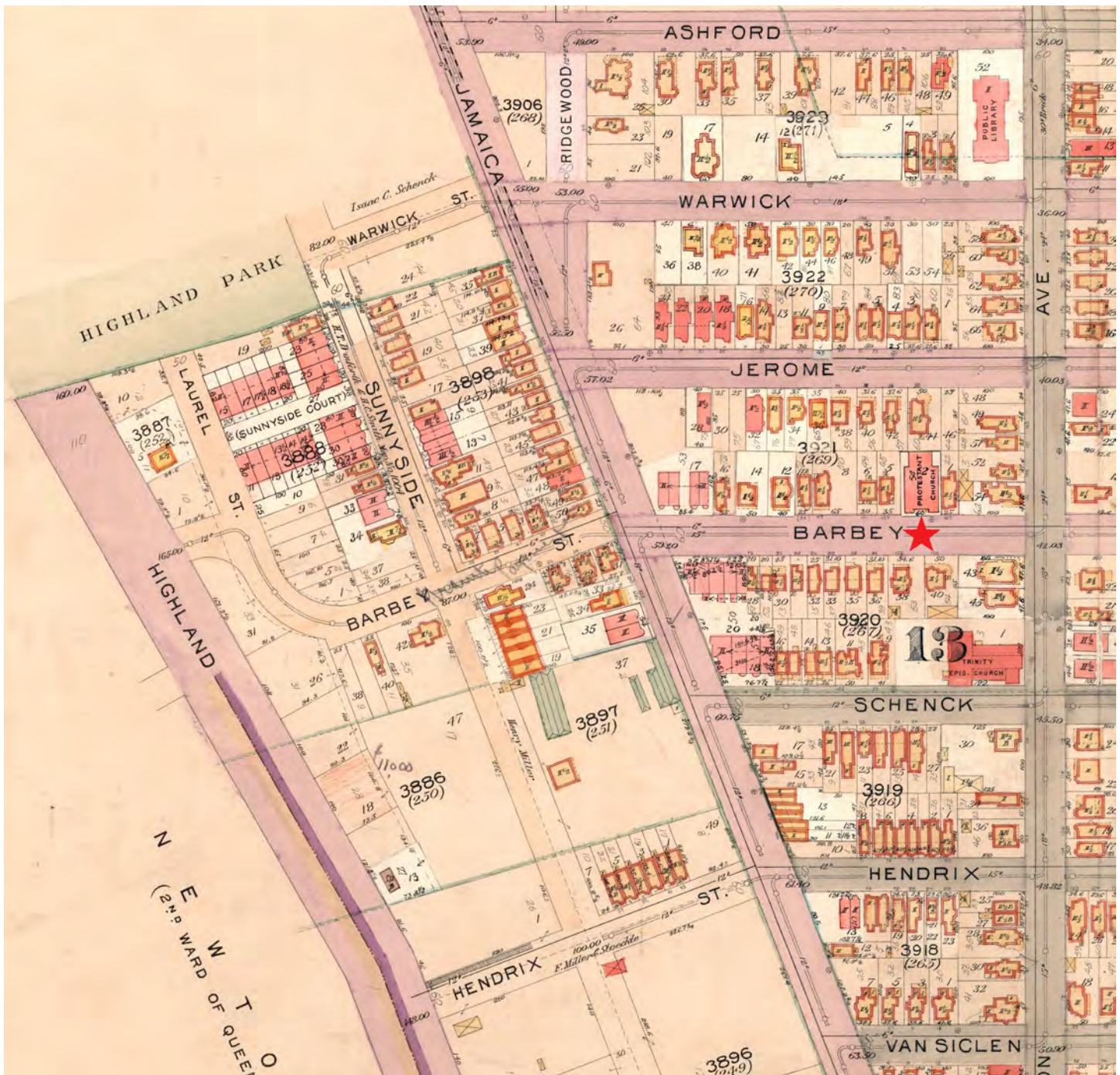


Figure 1. 1905 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* (updated approximately 1908).

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State



Figure 2. Historic 1909 photo of church exterior from Brooklyn Public Library Digital Collection

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State



Figure 3. Historic 1909 photo of church interior from Brooklyn Public Library Digital Collection

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation **DRAFT**
Name of Property

Kings County, NY
County and State



Figure 4. Historic 1967 photo of church interior from church's Christmas card

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.























