

FAQ

Individual Landmark and Historic District Building Database

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Question:** *What is the LPC's Individual Landmark and Historic District Building Database?*

With support from the New York Community Trust, LPC staff and fellows compiled and transferred building-by-building information from 50 years of the Commission's historic district and individual landmark designation reports into a custom geographic information system (GIS) database. The data set contains detailed information on close to 36,000 buildings and sites, including the nearly 34,000 historic buildings within the city's 141 historic districts and all of the 1,408 individual landmarks (note: some individual landmarks include multiple buildings).

2. **Question:** *What is the source of the historic district building data?*

Answer: Data for each building located in a historic district or individual landmark was directly transcribed from building entries in historic district designation reports (with some minor edits for the purposes of data consistency, eg, neo-Colonial versus Neo Colonial). No new research was conducted during the development of the dataset. However, designation reports written in the early years of the LPC, which was created in 1965, generally have less detailed information than later reports. Furthermore, the earliest reports often didn't have building-by-building information. The building-by-building information was compiled separately at the time of designation to supplement the reports, and has been regularly used by the agency since that time.

The districts with supplemental information include:

- a) Brooklyn Heights Historic District (1965): *most information is from the Green Books*
- b) Charlton-King-Vandam Historic District (1966)
- c) MacDougal-Sullivan Gardens (1967)
- d) St. Nicholas Historic District (1967)
- e) Cobble Hill Historic District (1969): *substantial amount of information is from the Green Books*
- f) Chelsea Historic District (1970)
- g) Mount Morris Park Historic District (1971): *most information is from the Green Books*
- h) Carroll Gardens Historic District (1973)
- i) Boerum Hill Historic District (1973)

Information for some individual landmarks was supplemented by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's "Guide to New York City Landmarks," published in 2009 by John Wiley and Sons.

3. **Question:** *What is a Designation Report?*

As part of the LPC's designation process, the history and significance of each landmark and district is carefully documented in designation reports. These reports, which also include a description of the building or site, form the basis for the LPC's regulatory work, and are frequently used by staff as well as property owners and applicants. Over the last 53 years, LPC staff have generated tens of thousands of pages of research with detailed building descriptions and histories.

All designation reports are accessible through links on the web map, or can be searched and accessed via LPC's website: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/designations/designation-reports.page>, or web map <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/designations/maps.page>

4. **Question:** *The data for a building indicates that there is a vacant lot, but there is a new building on the site. Why is there a discrepancy?*

Answer: Data for each building was directly transcribed from building entries in historic district designation reports. However, over time there have been changes in historic districts, including new construction and demolition. When a substantial change has taken place after designation, such as the construction of a new building on a vacant lot, that information is included in the "notes," but the top level information from the report is still included in the fields. This allows for consistency in what was *designated*, versus what is contained in the districts now.

5. **Question:** *What should I do if I find an error in the historic building data?*

Answer: If you find an error in the data please feel free to submit feedback to the LPC through the City's Open Data portal or through the LPC's Data and Mapping Feedback Portal. The LPC's portal can be accessed through the Discover New York City Landmarks web map by clicking on the 'Data and Map Feedback' link on the center top of the application window. Links to both the web map and the web map and feedback portal can be found below. We welcome any feedback or concerns.

Discover New York City Landmarks:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/designations/maps.page>

<https://nyc1pc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=93a88691cace4067828b1eede432022b>

Data and Mapping Feedback Portal:

<https://nyc1pc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html?appid=8cb01c0e84d24ebebde44dd8d5f66478>

6. **Question:** *What is the graphic source of the building footprints polygons used on the map?*

Answer: New York City Department of Buildings, Buildings Footprints, July 2016.

About the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the mayoral agency responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has designated over 36,000 buildings and sites, including 1,405 individual landmarks, 120 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, and 141 historic districts and extensions in all five boroughs. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/landmarks and connect with us via www.facebook.com/NYCLandmarks and www.twitter.com/nyclandmarks.