

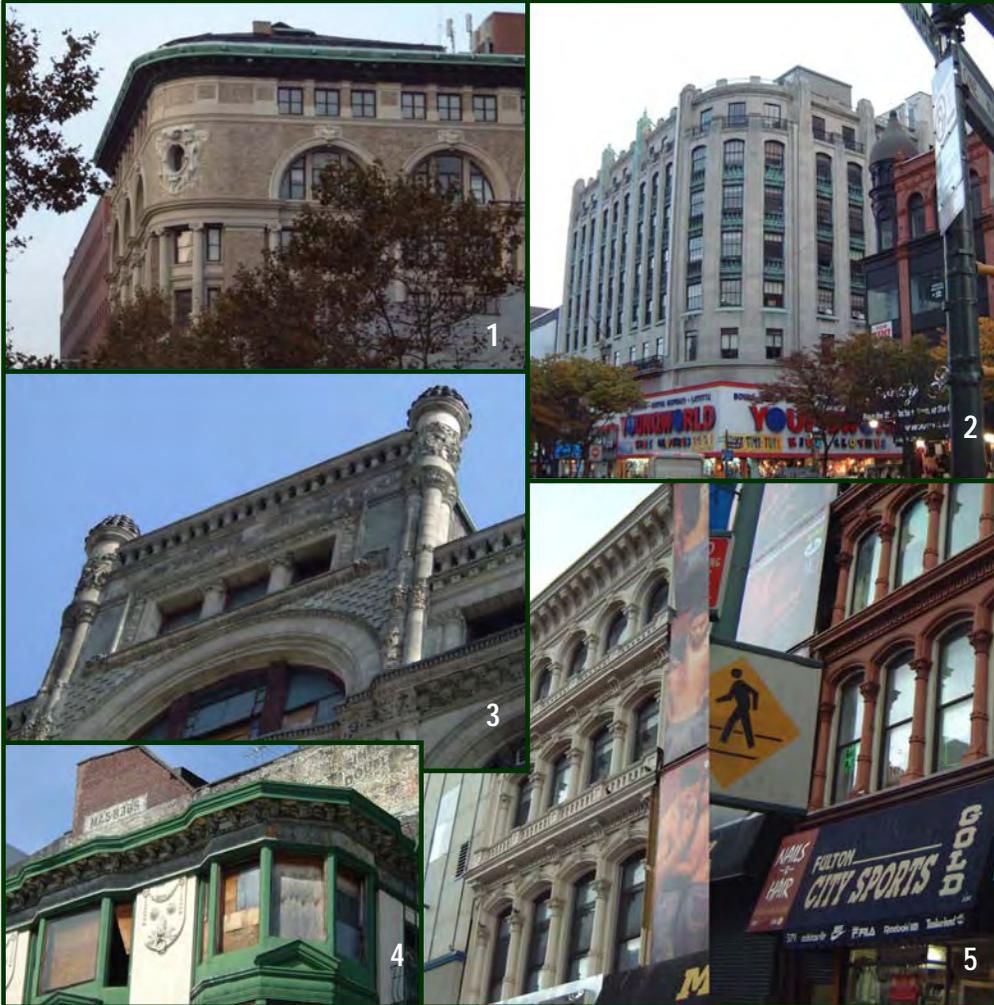
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H I S T O R I C  
*Fort Greene Association*  
N E W S L E T T E R

NOVEMBER, 2004

## Look Up - There are treasures to discover!



Postcards from the edge – Historic façades under consideration in the Fulton Mall.

1- Designated landmark 81 Willoughby. New York & New Jersey Telephone Co. Beaux- arts architect, R.L. Daus 1898. 2- 456 Fulton. Namm's Building. Neo-classical architects, R. Kohn & C. Butler 1924. 3- 505 Fulton. Offerman Building. Masterpiece of Romanesque Revival 1890-1891. 4- 470-472 Fulton. Of special interest are the three surviving cat faces composed of classical details. 5- 567,569,571 Fulton. Examples of a cast iron façades that once housed a piano company in 1895.

Going through Fulton Mall, by foot or bus, have you ever noticed on the side facade of a corner building, a row of architectural elements which appear to be shields? Glance again. They are really cat faces! The building, 470 Fulton at Elm Place, was once owned by a manufacturer of cat products -- hence this playful and clever reminder of his business.

There is a vigorous effort afoot to push for individual landmark status for these historic facades before, one way or another, they are lost. Recognizing that the Downtown Brooklyn Plan omits landmarks preservation architectural historian Andrew Dolkart of the Municipal Art Society [MAS], has drawn up a list of 28 buildings for potential landmark status. An informal group of interested parties has had success in lobbying the City for preservation of some of these buildings. Borough President Marty Markowitz supports this preservation effort as do the Fulton Mall Improvement Association, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Preservation League of New York, the Society for the preservation of Long Island Antiquities. The movement also has the support of Councilpersons David Yassky and Letitia James, the latter of whom would like City Planning and Landmarks to

commit to a study of the affected buildings.

For initiating this project, enormous thanks should go to graphic illustrator Meredith Hamilton and the Brooklyn Heights Association [BHA]. Recognizing that there are intriguing and important structures in our downtown commercial area, Ms. Hamilton set about taking a closer look, putting the best candidates on her list, photographing them and then taking her observations to the BHA to enlist their help. Ms. Hamilton and the BHA realized that while many of the buildings have been "restyled and modernized" they retain, from their earlier lives, handsome and unique vestiges worthy of preservation.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission [LPC] is supportive of this effort while City Planning has been reluctant as they are authors of the Downtown Plan which would be impacted in the landmarking of some of the proposed buildings. An attempt by MAS and BHA to incorporate a preservation element into the Downtown Plan failed. However, one site has been designated landmark status, one is calendared for review by LPC and four are in the works.

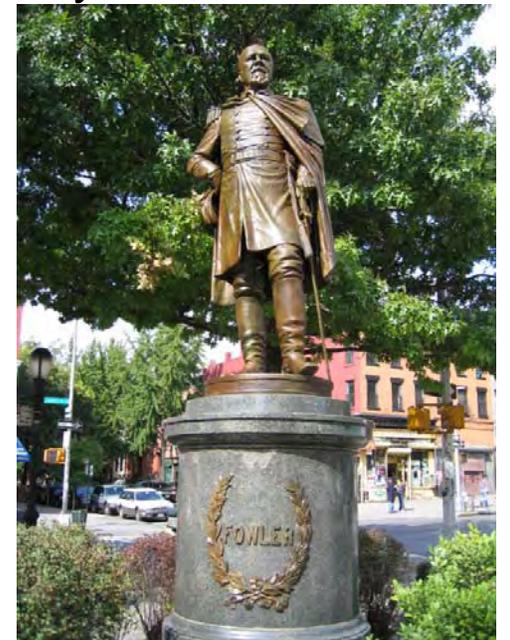
Until now the affected nearby Downtown neighborhoods, who normally attend to landmark and preservation concerns in

their own areas, have not been involved in this project. At a recent Borough Hall meeting, attended by the FGA, virtually all the surrounding communities were represented. The FGA realizes that it is time for all of us to consider the broader picture and press the City to take the right steps. To aide this process the FGA will involve itself in assisting in whatever way it can -- via lobbying, testimony, letter-writing, and especially by including all interested local residents and businesses in this process.

Whatever strengthens and enhances our commercial community, benefits us all. We have all heard a neighbor remark "Oh, I won't go to Fulton Mall -- I don't want to shop there." The FGA kindly reminds our community that we have a substantial stake in the Fulton Mall as it leads directly into Fort Greene.

Many thanks and BRAVI to Meredith Hamilton and the BHA for their vision and hard work. Remember, LOOK UP!

## Say Hello to "Old Ned"



General Fowler proudly stands as the gateway to Fort Greene

Dear "Old Ned" (aka General Edward B. Fowler) Fort Greene's grand and handsome greeter has been given a facelift. After ten years of perseverance by the FGA the General now stands tall sporting a new sword, stirrups, wreath, and plaque. This is truly a FGA triumph. Sincere and fulsome thanks to City Councilmembers Ken Fisher who initially provided the funding and Tish James who brought the project to fruition and to all of the members of the community that have made this possible. Stay tuned for additional enhancements such as lighting and landscaping to be topped off by an official unveiling and dedication ceremony in the spring.

### MEMORY

ELLY GARCIA, for 38 years owner with her husband Winston, of ELLY's Grocery on DeKalb Avenue. Her generosity of spirit will be greatly missed. She has left us all a gift in the marvelous restoration of her building. With sympathy for Winston and deep thanks to Elly.

# JOIN THE FGA- BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN OUR COMMUNITY

I am pleased to enclose my membership dues to the Fort Greene Association, Inc.  
\_\_\_\$15 Member \_\_\_\$25 Friend \_\_\_\$50 Patron \_\_\_\$100 Corporate \_\_\_\$200 Angel

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Checks to Fort Greene Association, Inc., Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

The Fort Greene Association, Inc., operates as a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

## Dogs

### A response from PUPS

Following is a response to the article posted in the October FGA newsletter from Fort Greene's Park Users and Pets Society [PUPS].

*The Fort Greene Association [FGA] recently published in their newsletter that the community dog group PUPS has been "lobbying" to increase off-leash hours. Unfortunately, the FGA omitted important details of the PUPS proposal. Here is what was proposed by PUPS.*

*Extension of the current off-leash hours of 9 PM - 9 AM to 5 or 6 PM - 9 AM, November 1 through March 31 ONLY, and on a one-year trial-basis. Morning hours would not change at all. These suggested times and dates were based on three things:*

- Park usage is at its lowest during winter months.
- There has been a precedent set in Prospect Park.
- It is generally believed that having dogs and their owners in the park when it is dark and deserted is a crime deterrent.

*Additionally, PUPS has not "lobbied" for an off-leash extension. PUPS distributed its proposal last Spring to extend off-leash*

*hours, as described above, at one meeting facilitated by Councilmember Letitia James. Present were Parks District 2 Manager Lena Neglia, Community Board 2 District Manager Robert Perris, Kerry Lowe from Partnerships for Parks, and two deputies from the 88th Precinct. The purpose of that meeting was to determine and discuss the proper channels for submitting such a proposal and the PUPS proposal was not rejected at that time.*

*Since publication of FGA's last newsletter, Community Board 2 has made a decision on this issue. Their recommendation is that off-leash hours remain unchanged until a full and impartial study can be done.*

The FGA would like to state that it supports the approach and recommendations made by CB-2 in regard to this issue and looks forward to working with the Community Board, PUPS, the Fort Greene Park Conservancy and all the people of Fort Greene interested in what goes on in Fort Greene Park to make it the best park in New York City.

Fort Greeners are as passionate about their dogs as Parisians and in recognition of this the FGA has scheduled a discussion to be held at the next General Membership Meeting, November 15<sup>th</sup>. To make your voice be heard on

the future of Fort Greene Park attend the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and speak at our Open Forum.

## Membership Rewards

Becoming a member of the Fort Greene Association will not get you frequent flyer miles nor credit card awards points for holiday gifts. What it will give you is a voice with your local, city, and state officials regarding topics such as street lighting, resident parking, transportation issues, Historic District extension, the proposed arena, and more.

Of course, this newsletter, our holiday party and the bi-annual House Tour are but a few good things the FGA brings to our community. But above all the FGA is a place where you can meet your neighbors to discuss the issues that matter to you most.

We can't do any of these things without you, please give generously.



## HISTORIC Fort Greene Association

Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

### On the 15<sup>th</sup> November Agenda:

**Brooklyn Parks Forestry  
Presenting a Master Plan for  
Fort Greene Park  
PLUS**

**Dogs Off Leash - PUPS will  
present their point of view  
regarding dogs being allowed  
off-leash in Fort Greene Park.**

## NEXT FGA MEETING November 15th, 2004

7:30PM- Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene

## GOINGS ON

### MEETINGS

**Fort Greene Association** - Meets Mondays at 7:30 pm, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene.

February 28, March 21, April 18, June 20. Participate in our OPEN FORUM.

**Community Board 2** - Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm. Call CB2 office, 718.596.5410, for location. Attend.

**88th Precinct** - 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30. Call 718.636.6511, ext 526x for location.

### EVENTS

**NEW YORK CITY MARATHON** - Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Celebrate with your neighbors and cheer your favorite runners on as they pass right through the heart of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill.

**FREE ANNUAL FALL BULB GIVE-AWAY** - Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004. 1 pm to 3 pm. Prospect Heights Community Farm, St. Marks Ave. between Vanderbilt and Underhill. Beautify your neighborhoods public spaces---tree pits, front gardens, traffic islands. Info 718.596.0151.

### NEWS SCENES

**SUSHI D** - 207 DeKalb Avenue at Adelphi. Attractive and inviting new restaurant; lunch and dinner, 7 days. Owners Eileen and Willis Wu were previously 17-year proprietors of sushi restaurant in Carroll Gardens. Now we welcome them to Fort Greene. Phone 718.858.8058

**713 FULTON DELI** -near Ft. Greene Place. New store, look for the bright orange awning. Grocery, Coffee, Sandwiches. Phone 718.522.5490.

**BALLOON CORNER/PARTY SUPPLIES** - 707 Fulton Street at St. Felix St. Longtime local merchants Ngozi & Paul Olisah have moved their shop to new quarters -- balloons and all. Phone 718.624.7489.

**JUNE** - 229 DeKalb at Clermont. Small plates restaurant -- new green facade. If you're into desserts, this is for you. Same owner as earlier. Phone 718.222.1510.

**PARLOR JAZZ** - 119 Vanderbilt Avenue. An intimate setting for Jazz by various artists. Saturdays 9 pm to midnight. November 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Phone 718.855.1981 Website www.parlorjazz.com