



NORTH SLOPE

Begin on Eighth Avenue at Lincoln Place.



1 Francis H. Kimball’s Montauk Club (1889–91), Eight Avenue at Lincoln Place. The exotically decorated building housed the defining institution of elite Park Slope gentlemen.

2 The néo-Grec brownstone (built in 1883) at 20 Eighth Avenue, across the street from the Montauk Club between St. John’s and Lincoln places, was the home of William J. Gaynor (1849–1913) during the time he served as one of the most remarkable mayors in New York City history. A Christian Brothers missionary turned lawyer, he practiced first in the Town of Flatbush then in the City of Brooklyn. As a judge, he sent the notoriously corrupt Gravesend political boss John Y. McKane to prison for election fraud, thus

making it possible for the great amusement parks (Steeplechase, Luna Park Dreamland) to thrive at Coney Island. Gaynor was elected mayor in 1909 and liked to walk to work from here to City Hall. He survived a 1910 assassination attempt though complications from his wound caused him to die in office.

3 On the north side of Lincoln Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues is the Berkeley-Carroll School, a private school. It was founded as the all-girls school Berkeley Institute 1887 by David Augustus Boody, who would later be mayor of Brooklyn. The 1896 Jacobean-style building was designed by Walker & Morris. The superb 1992 addition is by Fox & Fowle.



4 The house at 274 Berkeley Place, between Eighth Avenue and Plaza Street West, was designed by Lamb & Rich and built in 1890–91 for George P. Tangeman, owner of the Royal Baking Powder, a company that through its marketing expertise grew into a consumer goods conglomerate. The style of the house is transitional from the Romanesque Revival of the 1880s to the Classical of the 1890s.

5 Grand Army Plaza, with the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial Arch (John H. Duncan, 1889–92) featuring the 1898 quadriga by Frederick W. MacMonnies, and the groups Army (west pier facing the park, 1901) and Navy (east pier, 1901). On the inside walls of the arch are two equestrian reliefs in bronze. One depicts Ulysses Grant, the other Abraham Lincoln. This is the only known equestrian portrait of the 16th president. The human figures were sculpted by William O’Donovan, the horses by the great Philadelphia realist painter Thomas Eakins.

6 Brooklyn Public Library, 1937–41, Githens & Keally. Be sure to go inside.

7 Mary Louise Bailey Fountain, 1932, Eugene Savage, sculptor, Egerton Swartwout, architect.

8 Though it is technically in Prospect Heights, you won’t help noticing the striking, glassy Modernist apartment house, On Prospect Park (2008), designed by the world-famous Richard Meier, on Eastern Parkway across from the Brooklyn Public Library.

9 The twin Tudor-style houses at 13 and 15 Prospect Park West (between President and Carroll streets) were built in 1919. They represent the late incursion into Park Slope for the quaint and lovely suburban style (e.g., Forest Hills Gardens in Queens, N.Y.) of the time. They also represent one of the earliest instances of driveways and garages in Park Slope. The architect was William McCarthy.



10 869 President Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, an “artistic house” designed by Henry Ogden Avery for Stewart Lyndon Woodford; built in 1885.



11 97 Eighth Avenue, southeast corner of President Street, was built 1909 for John W. Weber, president of the William Ulmer Brewery in Bushwick. The architects Daus & Otto designed it in a Classical style at a time when virtually everything in Park Slope was Classical.

12 105 Eighth Avenue, between President and Carroll streets, may be one of the finest Classical houses in Brooklyn, and one of the cleverest, with the rounded colonnade lending a kind of monumentality that would otherwise have been difficult to attain on the tight site. It was built in 1912 for Michael Tracy, owner of one of the East Coast’s largest stevedoring firms. Brooklyn’s Helmle & Huberty were the architects.

13 115 Eighth Avenue, northeast corner of Carroll Street, was built in 1888 for Thomas Adams Jr., whose father had invented modern chewing gum. Adams Jr. manufactured Chiclets and Dentyne, among other gums, and helped form the “chewing gum trust.” Architect C.P.H. Gilbert’s house is a bravura exercise in “Richardsonian Romanesque.”

14 121 Eighth Avenue, southeast corner of Carroll Street, was built in 1894. Architect Montrose Morris, a master of Richardsonian Romanesque, jettisoned that style for an exuberant Classicism when that was what his clients wanted.

15 838, 842, and 846 Carroll Street, on the south side between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, were all designed by C.P.H. Gilbert and built in 1887.

16 850 Carroll Street, on the south side between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, was built in 1922, one of the last rich men’s houses built in the neighborhood. Mott B. Schmidt, architect of Manhattan’s Sutton Place from around the same time, designed the house in his trademark light Georgian Revival style, so different in feeling from the Victorian architecture of Park Slope.

17 Speaking of that Victorian architecture, William B. Tubby designed the delightful row of four “Queen Anne” houses at 864–872 Carroll Street (south side between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West), built in 1887. In this wildest and most picturesque of styles, it’s sometimes hard to tell where one house ends and the next begins.

18 863 Carroll Street (north side between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West), 1890, is a rare domestic work by the famous firm of Napoleon Le Brun & Sons.

19 Two houses at the northwest corner of Prospect Park West and Carroll Street, 16 and 17 Prospect Park West, and two on the opposite corner, 18 and 19 Prospect Park West, are limestone Classical beauties built in 1898–99 and designed by Montrose Morris to form a grand gateway to this splendid block of Carroll Street.

20 28 Prospect Park West, at the southwest corner of Montgomery Place, was designed by Boston’s Charles Brigham and built in 1901.

21 Montgomery Place was developed by Harvey Murdock (co-developer of the resort of Locust Valley farther out on Long Island), who had a close working relationship with a very young architect (only 24 when he began work on Montgomery Place) named Charles Pierrepont Henry Gilbert, recently trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In his youth, Gilbert was under the spell of Boston’s Henry Hobson Richardson, who had evolved a personal variation



45 Montgomery Place, Babb, Cook & Willard, 1898-99. Classicism comes to Montgomery Place. At around the same time as this house, Babb, Cook & Willard were designing the Andrew Carnegie mansion on 91st Street at Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. This Henry V-style house seems almost a small-scale study for the later mansion.

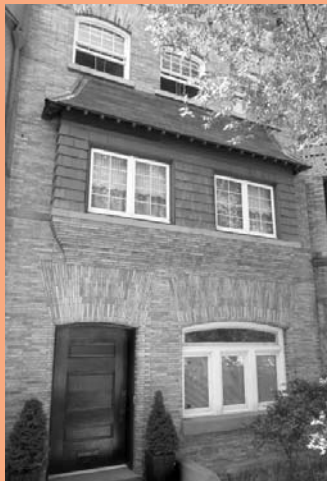


42 and 44 Montgomery Place, C.P.H. Gilbert, 1888-89. Throughout Park Slope, and especially on Montgomery Place, we find many odes to the bricklayer's craft. Here the brick is laid in an "intaglio" pattern. Notice also the deep cornice carried on long beams.



17 and 19 Montgomery Place, C.P.H. Gilbert, 1887-88. Note the willful variety.

46 Montgomery Place, C.P.H. Gilbert, 1888-89. Long, golden, elegant Roman brick is laid in breathtaking patterns in this lovely house designed for the prominent stained-glass artist Alex Locke.



47 Montgomery Place, R.L. Daus, 1890. This unusual sandstone house, in a François I style, bears fleur-de-lys in its crowning gable. Architect Daus was born in Germany, trained in Paris, and lived in Brooklyn.



on French and Spanish Romanesque prototypes and in so doing created what struck many people in the 1880s as somehow peculiarly American. Richardson's acolytes were numerous in Brooklyn, and none was better or more prolific than Gilbert. Later, Gilbert designed many of the most stupendous Gilded Age mansions of Manhattan's Upper East Side, but most people agree his work in Park Slope defines him as an architect. He designed, between 1887 and 1892, 20 of the 46 houses on this block, which is, quite simply, one of the loveliest row house blocks in America.

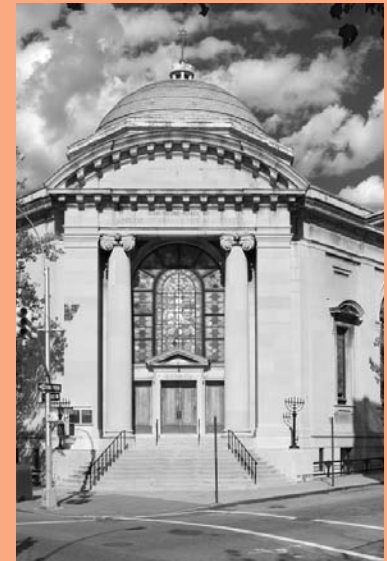


14 Montgomery Place, C.P. H. Gilbert, 1887-88. The picturesque values of the 1880s let architect's imaginations run riot. Here, spiky rockface voussoirs surround a big arched window of thick stone mullions and multi-paned windows. The arch rises right up to collide with the swelling bay of the second floor. And it's all delightful.

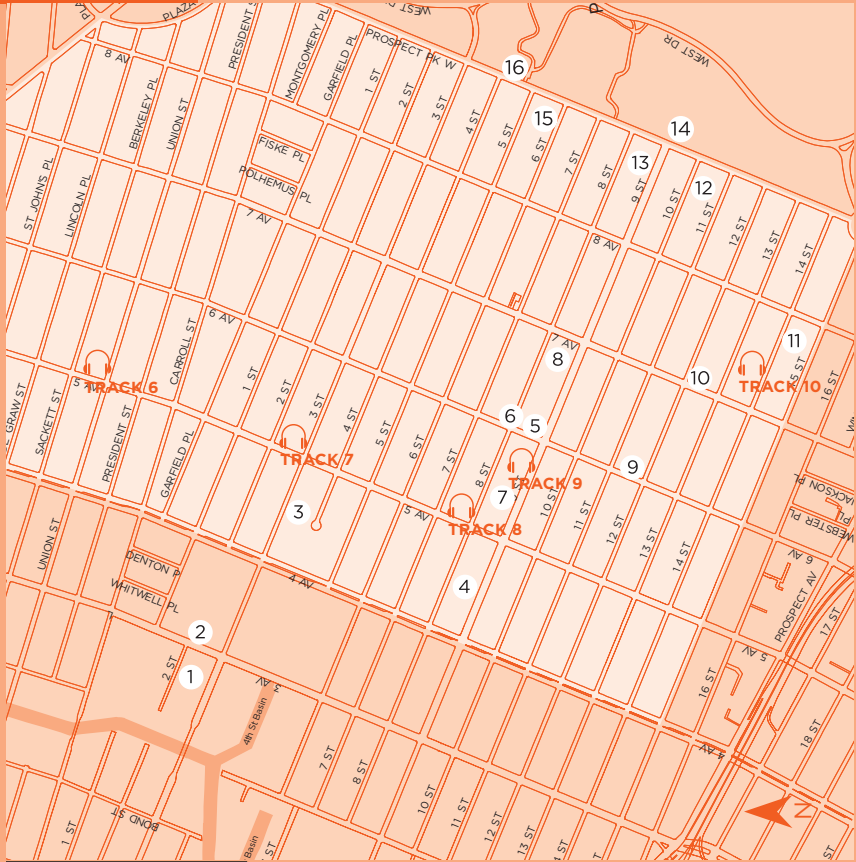
Some of Gilbert's best: 14 (1887-88), 16 (1887-88), 18 (1887-88), 42 and 44 (1887-88), 46 (1888-89, perhaps the best house on the block, built for renowned stained-glass artist Alex Locke), 11 (1887-88, Harvey Murdock's own house), 17 and 19 (1887-88). Also note the Henri IV-style house at 45, designed by Babb, Cook & Willard and built in 1898-99, and the eccentric François I-style house at 47, designed by R.L. Daus and built in 1890. A nice Art Deco apartment house (1935-36, Martyn Weinstein) stands on Eighth Avenue opposite Montgomery Place, closing the vista with just the right emphasis.

22 Two gorgeous Beaux-Arts Classical apartment houses, 10 Montgomery Place and 143 Eighth Avenue, stand at the southeast corner. Designed by Montrose Morris and built in 1910-11, the 4-story buildings are like rich French pastry.

23 Simeon Eisendrath, who had worked in Chicago for Louis Sullivan, designed Temple Beth Elohim, 1908-10, at the northeast corner of Eighth Avenue and Garfield Place. It is one of the most beautiful Classical synagogues in New York City.



24 The Belvedere, at the northwest corner of Eighth Avenue and Garfield Place, is a simple but elegant 4-story apartment house from 1903 designed by Henry Pohlman. Along Garfield Place going west from Eighth Avenue are its three siblings, the Serine, the Lillian, and the Ontrine. Buildings such as these form the rich architectural background of Park Slope, and are as necessary to the neighborhood's quality as anything by C.P.H. Gilbert or Montrose Morris.



SOUTH SLOPE

Begin on Third Avenue at 3rd Street.

- 1 The New York & Long Island Coignet Stone Company Building, northwest corner of Third Avenue and 3rd Street, was designed by William Field & Son and built in 1872–73 as offices for a pioneering concrete manufacturer on the Gowanus Canal. The building may be the earliest example of concrete construction in New York City. From 1882 to 1957 it served as offices of the Brooklyn Improvement Company, founded by Edwin Litchfield. It stands on a plot of land owned by Austin, Texas-based Whole Foods Market.
- 2 On the east side of Third Avenue between 1st and 3rd streets is a large Con Edison yard where Washington Park used to be. Charles Ebbets' National League franchise played here from 1898 to 1912 before moving to Ebbets Field on Bedford Avenue. The Brooklyn Tip-Tops of the upstart Federal League played here in 1914 and 1915. A portion of the Tip-Tops' outfield wall is still clearly visible along Third Avenue.

- 3 The Old Stone House stands within J.J. Byrne Park, bounded by Fourth and Fifth avenues and 3rd and 4th streets. The Vechte farmhouse was built in 1699 and progressively demolished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was reconstructed using original stones in 1933. See www.theoldstonehouse.org.
- 4 The former William B. Cronyn house at 271 9th Street (south side between Fourth and Fifth avenues) was built in 1856–57. The Italianate/French Second Empire villa later became offices of the Higgins Ink Company, whose 1899 factory building (now condominiums) stands directly behind the house at 240 8th Street. Since 1981 the Cronyn house has been the home of the musicians Charles and Vita Sibirsky and of their school, Slope Music. See www.charlessibirsky.com.
- 5 The Prospect Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, at the northeast corner of Sixth Avenue and 9th Street, was built in 1906. The distinctive design of this Carnegie library is by Brooklyn-born, Ecole des Beaux-Arts-trained Raymond Almiraal.



- 6 Public School 39, at the southeast corner of Sixth Avenue and 8th Street, is a wonderful Victorian school building designed by Samuel B. Leonard and built in 1876–77.
- 7 The C-Town supermarket, faced in white terra-cotta, on the north side of 9th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, was from 1914 to 1967 the RKO Prospect Theatre, which had 2,381 seats. In 1922 the theater was the site of the debut of Ted Healy and His Stooges (Moe and Shemp Howard).

8 Acme Hall, the distinctive building at the northwest corner of Seventh Avenue and 9th Street, was built in 1890 to house meeting spaces for fraternal and political organizations. It also had a bowling alley, a pool hall, and a 2-story ballroom. The street-level Acme Café and Restaurant had an outdoor dining area where the F train entrance (opened 1933) now is. Acme Hall also hosted indoor bicycle races. In the 1970s the building housed a discothèque, and in the 1990s the offices of Old House Journal, founded in Park Slope in 1973 by Clem Labine (though he had sold the magazine by the time it moved into Acme Hall). (Hat tip to Ruth Edebohls of the Center for the Urban Environment for information about the building.)

9 Henington Press at 491 Sixth Avenue (east side between 11th and 12th streets), was founded in 1900. Today it is one of the few letterpress print shops remaining in New York. The building dates to 1900.

10 The Ansonia Clock Company operated one of the world's largest clock factories on the east side of Seventh Avenue between 12th and 13th streets from 1881 to 1929. In 1981, Clockwork Development Venture converted the factory to cooperative apartments and named it Ansonia Court. The architects for the conversion were Hurley & Farinella and the landscape architects were Zion & Breen.



11 The 14th Regiment Armory, Eighth Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, was designed by William A. Mundell and built in 1895. The “doughboy” statue, commemorating the common American soldier who fought in World War I, and in particular those drawn from working-class communities such as southern Park Slope, dates from 1923; Anton Scaaf was the sculptor. The impressive Romanesque Revival armory, with a 70,000-square-foot drill hall, is being converted into a state-of-the-art community recreation center.

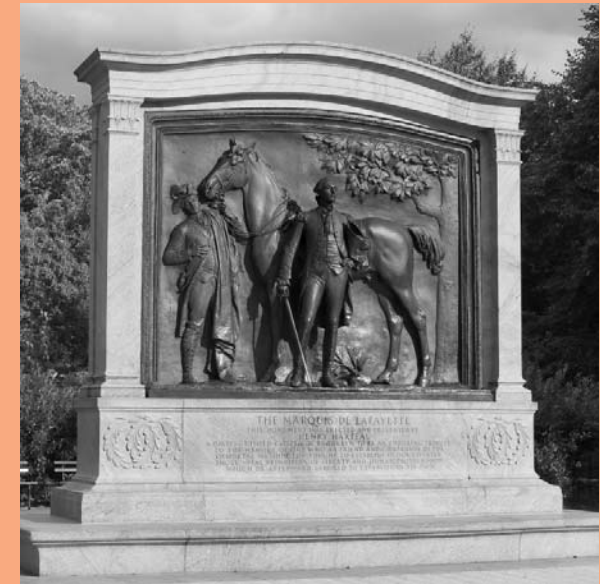
12 In an October 2006 feature on “The 50 Best Blocks in New York City,” 11th Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West was ranked 20th. “This peaceful street, lined with pristine brownstones and just off Prospect Park, is a quick jaunt from the commercial happenings on Seventh Avenue; it provides the best of both Brooklyn worlds.” The only Park Slope street to rank higher: Montgomery Place, in 6th place.

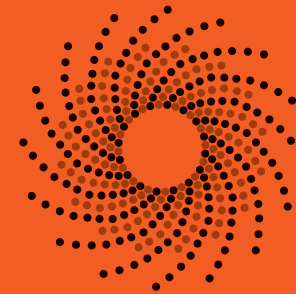
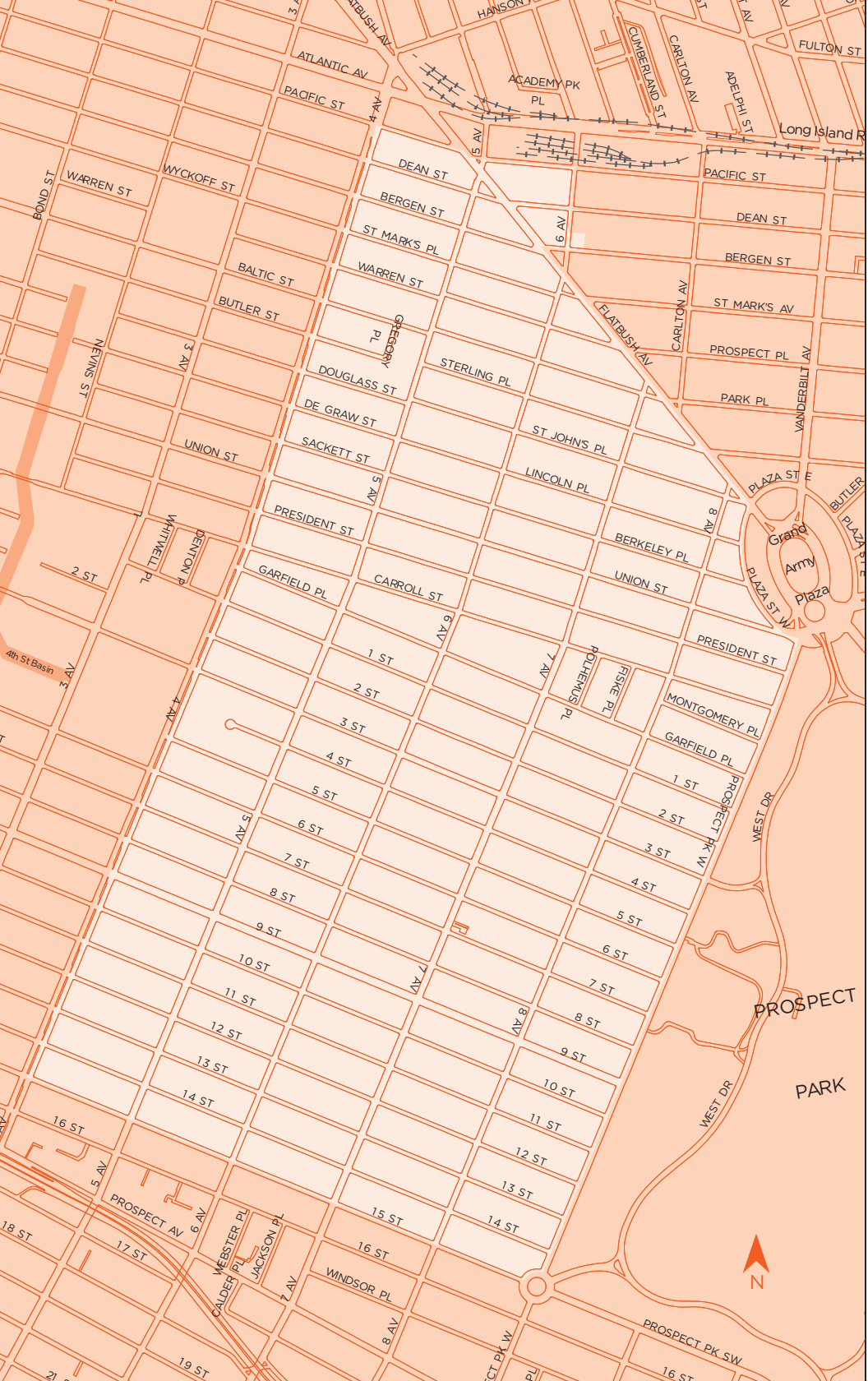
13 The distinctive, and distinctively named, Litchfield, at the northwest corner of Prospect Park West and 9th Street, is a 1903 apartment house designed by the prestigious Parfitt Brothers.

14 The Lafayette Memorial by the sculptor Daniel Chester French and the architect Henry Bacon—the same team that would soon give us the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.—designed this magnificent bronze relief and granite stele, dedicated in 1917 on Prospect Park West opposite 9th Street.

15 98–102 Prospect Park West (west side between 5th and 6th streets), are five sumptuous Beaux-Arts brownstone houses built in 1899. 101 was the home of Charles M. Higgins, the India ink baron. After World War II, 98, 99, 100, and 101 became four of the most notorious rooming houses in Park Slope. When converted to multiple occupancy, they had their stoops removed; 102 retains its original stoop. All five were later converted to modern apartments.

16 Litchfield Villa, just inside Prospect Park at 5th Street, was designed by Alexander Jackson Davis and built in 1854–57 as the country house of Edwin Litchfield.





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