

**Brooklyn's Other Museum of Brooklyn**  
109 Hall Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11205  
Tel: 718 789 5218  
Email: [karenpolack@yahoo.com](mailto:karenpolack@yahoo.com)  
[www.brooklynsothermuseumofbrooklyn.com](http://www.brooklynsothermuseumofbrooklyn.com)  
The museum is open every Tuesday night, 7-9pm  
until Admirals Row is Landmarked  
(or by appointment)

22 September 2009

Dear

Please review the enclosed letter to President Obama and request a congressional review prior to the title transfer of the Admirals Row property from the Federal Government to New York City. Enjoy the Admirals Row buttons that show how Admirals Row looked new and how, with your help, they will look again.

Contact: President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
Tel: Comments: 202-456-1111 / Tel: Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461  
Email: you have to email through the website -- [www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)

Sincerely,

Scott Witter  
Curator  
Brooklyn's Other Museum of Brooklyn

Encl. 6 page letter to President Obama  
7 buttons showing the Admirals Row and the Timber Shed  
DVD of 8 August 2009 RFP (Request for Proposal) pre-submittal meeting which includes BNYDC (Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp.) presentation and Tour of Admirals Row site with Scott Witter - (also available on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) )

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE ENCOURAGE THE LANDMARKING OF ADMIRALS ROW\*\*\*\***

**Scott Witter, Curator**  
**Brooklyn's Other Museum of Brooklyn**  
**Consulting Party Member to National Historic Preservation Act 106 Process**  
**109 Hall Street**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11205**  
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July 28, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: The Preservation and Landmarking of Admirals Row, properly designated "Senior Officers Quarters", New York Navy Yard on Wallabout Bay, Brooklyn, New York (Brooklyn Navy Yard since WWII). A Congressional Review for Admirals Row Disposition.

Dear President Obama,

The enclosed color portraits and buttons represent how Admirals Row mansions looked when they were new and how they can look again. For 30 years there has been a kettle of fish stinking in the Old Brooklyn Navy Yard that New York City Mayor Bloomberg is currently stirring through his office of The Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. The Mayor wants to raze completely this intact 19<sup>th</sup> century row of senior officers quarters and parade ground built from 1838 – 1880 (including a park, 100 plus year old trees and the last existing timber shed of its kind in the USA). He wants to replace them with a parking lot and two industrial buildings, one to be a supermarket.

As of May 2009, at the National Historic Preservation Act 106 Process Meeting, the National Guard Bureau presented the compromise mitigation of preserving Building "B" (Senator John McCain's Father was the Yard Commander and resided at Building "B" during WWII), 1 of 10 of the Admirals Row mansions, the Timber Shed and some trees. We were also told that the Secretary of Army signed this mitigation. Possibly the new Secretary of the Army can rethink this compliance with the New York City demolition plan. There is certainly enough land to preserve the row and develop the city's plan. This sacred 6.5-acre site is eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places; the row of mansions is also eligible as is each building and the timber

shed. This site, then part of a Wallabout Bay tidal basin, was under British occupation the entirety of The Revolutionary War (1776-1783). Over 12,000 Patriots died on prison ships moored on Wallabout Bay.

There are several documents that come into play: (nos. 1 and 3 are detailed after the list)

1. Public Law 100-202, 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, Section 109 dated 12 December 1987. This law allows the sale of Admirals Row property to New York City with conditions.
2. The Roberta Washington Report of 1995. It was prepared for New York City Economic Development Commission regarding the commercial and residential development of Admirals Row.
3. The 1996 M.O.A. This Memorandum of Agreement condemned Admirals Row.
4. Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation final report in 2005. Their archival report was required prior to demolition.
5. The Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) in 2005. This action allowed New York City to acquire Admirals Row property from the U.S. government.
6. The National Historic Preservation Act 106 Process initiated Spring 2007 and is still in progress. The minutes and other information are available on the National Guard Bureau's web site.
7. Assessment of Admirals Row (Final Report) 25 January 2008 aka Beardsley / Crawford Report. Printed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is available on the National Guard Bureau web site. This documents the favorable structural conditions and the eligibility conditions for inclusion to the National Register, and other important information.
8. The 2009 R.F.P. The Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation's request for proposals for the construction of Admirals Row site.

Two of these make up a large portion of that smelly kettle of fish -

(1) The Public Law 100-202 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to transfer the title of Admirals Row to New York City at fair market value, as determined by him and he may require conditions that protect the interests of the United States. If the fair market value actually reflects the current fair market value, the transfer of title could guarantee the restoration of these buildings. Admirals Row is roughly 2.5 city blocks in downtown Brooklyn and is worth upwards of 350 million dollars. That the restoration cost of Admirals Row and the Timber Shed is currently 30 million dollars, even a sweetheart deal (below fair market value) is possible. The fair market value would be offset by the cost of mitigation (in National Guard Bureau 106 Process terms). Should it be determined that these buildings represent a valuable piece of American History, Heritage and Architecture, the Secretary of the Army could protect the interests of the United States and stipulate that Admirals Row be landmarked and restored as a condition of title transfer.

(3) The 1996 M.O.A. that condemned Admirals Row was considered invalid by the National Guard Bureau in December 2007 because the National Guard Bureau was not a signatory as title holder and that there was no public process ((NHPA) National

Historic Preservation Act 106 process). Upon inquiry to the National Guard Bureau Office of Public Affairs, as to obtaining the document voiding this M.O.A., I was emailed that the 1996 M.O.A. was never valid, and therefore, did not need to be voided. (No paper trail) Since 1996, the demolition of Admirals Row was the premise for all developmental planning of this property. The City of New York, through the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation engineered this illegal M.O.A. and their planning has not altered since the National Guard Bureau's December 2007 statement that the 1996 M.O.A. demolition permit was never valid. All action and planning should go back to before the 1996 M.O.A. and regard this property as the National Treasure that it is. Landmarking Admirals Row is the only guarantee of longevity in New York City if the title is transferred. The Mayor of New York City appoints the Landmarks Preservation Commissioners and has directed the Landmarks Preservation Commission to not get involved with Admirals Row. Similarly, the New York State Historic Preservation Office has supported the demolition of Admirals Row. The Mayor of New York City is an unfit custodian to receive the Admirals Row property that he will eradicate 180 years of History, Heritage and Architecture.

The National Guard Bureau's National Historic Preservation 106 Process never considered the landmarking and preservation of the entire row; their presentation even came to the table in a Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation folder. The latest plan in May 2009 was to demolish Admirals Row (9 out of the 10 buildings) through its mitigation and a new M.O.A. (demolition mandate).

The National historic Preservation Act 106 Process has been compromised and needs congressional review, possibly similar to the committee that drafted the 1987 law. Brooklyn's Other Museum of Brooklyn is dedicated to the preservation and landmarking of Admirals Row and the sane development of Brooklyn. The museum and its website has been around six years and has a library of information that is at your disposal. This 19<sup>th</sup> century Senior Officers Quarters and Grounds would be a grand addition to Gateway National Park. It is time to dump the kettle of fish and get some fresh air (rethink the disposition of Admirals Row). **LANDMARK ADMIRALS ROW!!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Witter

P.S. There are other military reservations with similar problems. Perhaps the surplus housing could be considered assets in these troubled times and house the many displaced families.

**List of contacts:**

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809  
Washington, DC 20004

Contact: Don L. Kalima, Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
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Contact: Thomas McCulloch  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
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**National Guard Bureau Public Affairs**

Jefferson Plaza One  
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202-3231

Contact: Lt. Col. Mike Milord  
T: 703-607-2780  
E: [Michael.Milord@ngb.af.mil](mailto:Michael.Milord@ngb.af.mil)

**National Guard Bureau, National Historic Preservation Act 106 Process**

National Guard Bureau  
111 South George Mason Drive  
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Cultural Resources Program Manager  
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**New York State Historic Preservation Office**

Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building One  
Albany, NY 12238

Contact: Ruth Pierpont  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
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**New York State Historic Preservation Office**

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Contact: Beth A. Cummings  
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**New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission**

One Center Street, 9<sup>th</sup> floor

New York, NY 10007

Contact: Robert B. Tierney, LPC Chair

T: 212-669-7700

E: [comments@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:comments@lpc.nyc.gov)

Roberta Washington, Architect, P.C., LPC, Commissioner

Author of the "1995 Roberta Washington Report"

271 West 125 Street

New York, NY 10027

T: 212-749-9807

**Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg**

City Hall

New York, NY 10007

PHONE 311 (or 212-NEW-YORK outside NYC)

FAX (212) 312-0700

E-MAIL: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html>

**Municipal Art Society**

457 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10022

<http://mas.org/preservation/admiralsrow/> (to view 3 min. film on Admirals Row)

Contact: Lisa Kersavage

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Contact: Melissa Baldock

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**Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation**

Building 292, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

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Brooklyn, NY 11205

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E: [akimball@brooklynnavyyard.com](mailto:akimball@brooklynnavyyard.com)

Web: <http://www.brooklynnavyyard.org>

- Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Final Report in 2005 can be obtained from his office

**RFP (Request for proposal) Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation**

Document available at BNYDC website

<http://www.brooklynnavyyard.org/admiralsrowRFP.pdf>

Contact: Shani Leibowitz  
VP, Director of Development and Planning  
T: 718-907-5955  
E: [sleibowitz@brooklynnavyyard.com](mailto:sleibowitz@brooklynnavyyard.com)

**Assessment of Admirals Row (Final Report)**

**January 25, 2008 - aka Beardsley / Crawford Report**

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/buslinks/admiral/index.htm>

Beardsley Design Assoc.

64 South Street

Auburn, NY 13021

Contact: Timothy A. Guzzo, P.E. Structural Engineer  
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Crawford & Stearns

Architects and Preservation Planners

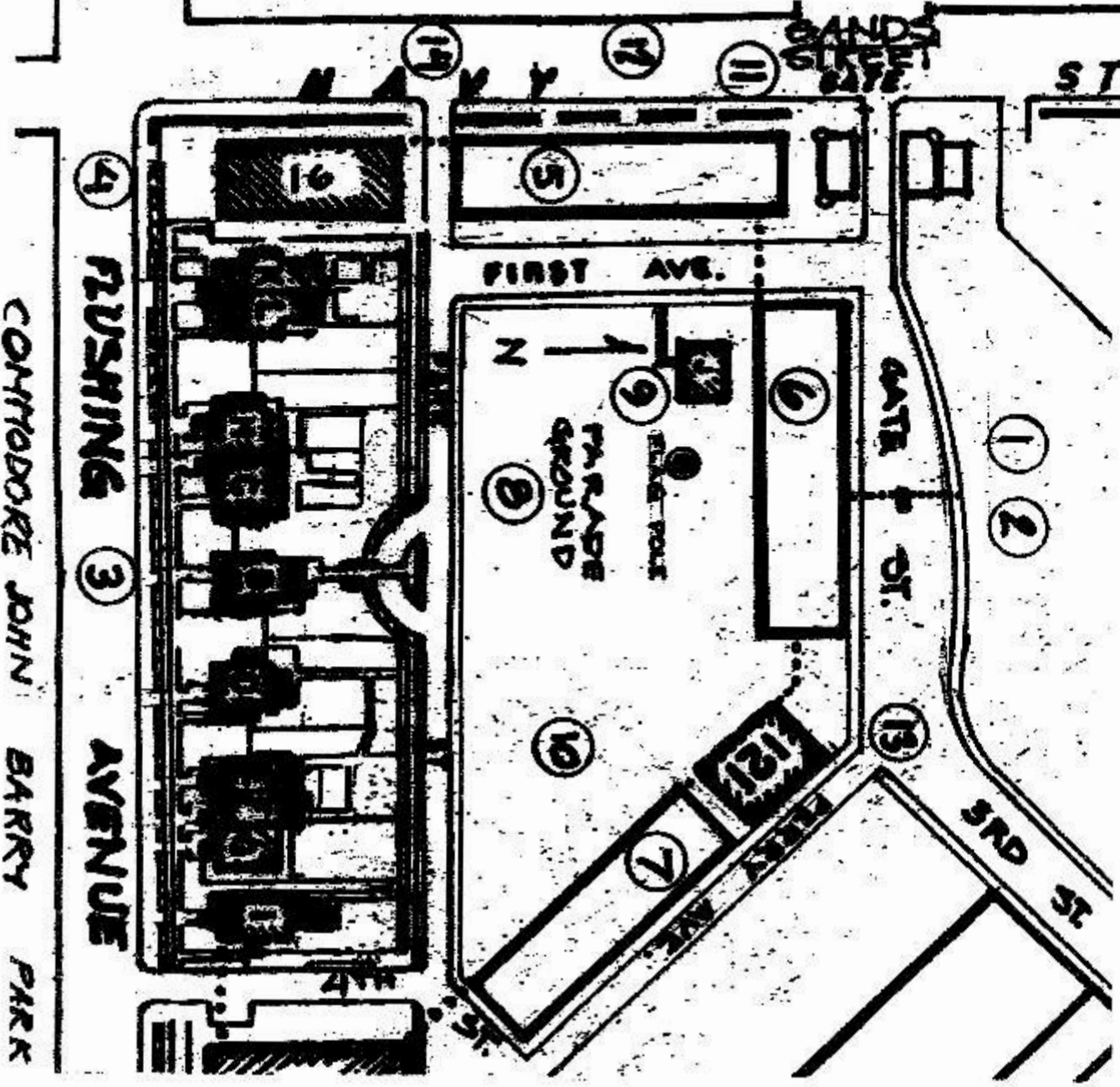
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**A PRESERVATIONISTS PLAN FOR DEVELOPING ADMIRALS ROW PROPERTY FOR BROOKLYN NAVY YARD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S "REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ADMIRALS ROW SITE"**  
 Deadline: October 19, 2009 3:00pm  
 Brooklyn's Other Museum of Brooklyn, 109 Hall Street, Brooklyn, NY 11205, Tel: 781-789-5218  
 Email: karenpolack@yahoo.com www.brooklynsothermuseumofbrooklyn.com  
**OPEN TUESDAY 7 - 9 PM UNTIL LANDMARKED**



**Legend**

1. Landmark Admirals Row site
2. Designate it as a retail/commercial enterprise zone - each building would have its own developer/lease
3. Buildings K-L, H-C, B, D, E-F-G and I have 50,000 sq. ft.
4. Timber Shed has 6,000 sq. ft. on 1st floor and 4,500 sq. ft. on 2nd floor
5. New Timber Shed 12,000 sq. ft. on 1st floor and 9,000 sq. ft. on 2nd floor to house the 10,000 sq. ft. supermarket, pierce existing brick wall at shop entrance
6. New Timber Shed 12,000 sq. ft. at 1st floor and 9,000 sq. ft. at 2nd floor
7. New Timber Shed 10,000 sq. ft. at 1st floor and 7,500 sq. ft. at 2nd floor
8. Parade Ground - Farmers Market - parking under
9. Building J and flag pole moved to accommodate building
10. Park area - Greenway Oasis
11. Greenway enter - exit at Gate Street - Navy Street and 4th Street - Flushing Avenue
12. Navy Street one way with diagonal parking both sides
13. Secure entry - Perry Ave to 4th Street to Park Street
14. Extend Park Street to Navy Street