





These are very special landmarks because children from a New York City public school, P.S. 243, the Weeksville School first had the dream to save them and make a Black History Museum.



- Why? Because it is important for all people to know their history.
- to learn about their heroes, heroines and regular folks.
- then you feel good about yourself and can help plan a better future for all.

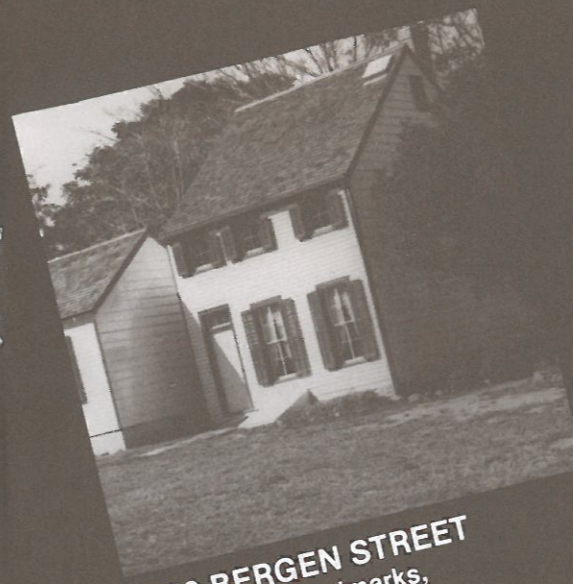
HOW TO MAKE YOUR LANDMARK HOUSE

1. Carefully cut out house including TABS and SLITS. Fold at corners of the house where you see this sign .
2. Fold back TABS.
3. Make slit on dotted line.
4. Insert TABS A and B into slits A and B.



When my shutters are closed,  they protect my windows.

 How many windows do I have? 



1700 BERGEN STREET
One of four Landmarks,
Hunterly Road Houses
of Weeksville,
Brooklyn, New York

HUNTERFLY ROAD HOUSES / 1700 BERGEN STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

LET'S MAKE A LANDMARK

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This is a photograph of 1700 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, New York. It is one of four buildings New York City **Landmarks**, the Hunterfly Road Houses of Weeksville. (1840-1883) These houses are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the United States.



1700 Bergen Street was built in 1883. This was the same year the Brooklyn Bridge was finished. The house faces the Hunterfly Road. Hunterfly Road was mentioned in documents as early as 1647. The name Hunterfly is an English version of the old Dutch word "Aander Vly" which means "to the low or swampy place." Long before the road had a Dutch or English name it was an Indian trail leading to the **wampum** beds on the shores of Jamaica Bay.

African-Americans living in the area in 1850 gave their address as "Weeksville, near the Hunterfly Road."

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LET'S MAKE A LANDMARK written and designed by Joan Maynard with many thanks to caring parents and teachers and especially to Dr. Marguerite C. Thompson for nearly twenty years of encouragement, good advice on **COMMUNITY AS CLASSROOM** and liaison with the children, parents and staff of the Weeksville School, P.S. 243/ Bank Street College Follow Through, sponsor, District 16, Board of Education, Brooklyn, New York

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Preparing for the Landmarks Commission Hearing at City Hall, June 1970, Jim Hurley and William Harley, community historian.



Members of Boy Scout Troop #342 waiting to testify at the Landmarks Commission. In the shopping bags are artifacts from their archaeology 'dig.'



A young Weeksville School student shows an artifact at the hearing. Other children wait to recite the poetry they wrote about Weeksville.

Children, teachers, parents and community people went to City Hall to give testimony at the Landmarks Commission hearing on why the old houses on Bergen Street deserved to be landmarks. The children rode on a yellow school bus over the Brooklyn Bridge from Brooklyn to Manhattan. They showed artifacts from an archaeology 'dig' across the street from their school. They recited poetry and sang songs about Weeksville. **The children were successful.** Two months later the old houses on Bergen Street were declared New York City Landmarks.

A typist typed this News Release.

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY MORNING

AUGUST 24, 1970

Landmarks Preservation Commission
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Administration
City of New York

Houses on Hunterfly Road. These four little frame cottages, located at 1698-1708 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, date from about 1830-40 and retain all the charm of their rustic setting. They are among the few surviving houses that face on an old colonial road. (A remnant of Hunterfly Road still can be seen in the middle of this typical, squared off city block). They are historically important because they lie on the edge of Weeksville, an early 19th century free black community. Little is known of Weeksville's history, but the archeological Project Weeksville of the City University of New York and the recently formed Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History are piecing the story together. The latter organization hopes to acquire the Hunterfly buildings and use them as a local historical museum.



A view of the historic houses circa 1900. Brooklyn Public Library.



Circa 1923. The tower of old St. Mary's Hospital can be seen in background. (Brooklyn Historical Society.) Loring McMillan of the Richmondtown Restoration in Staten Island documented these houses for the New York City Landmarks Commission.

A newspaper reporter wrote this story.

NEWS OF BROOKLYN

For Daily Home Delivery Call 458-0320

DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1970

4 Cottages, Meeting House Designated as Landmarks

Four small wooden cottages in Brooklyn, remnants of a rustic community on an old colonial road, have been designated official landmarks, the city announced yesterday.

The frame houses, at 1698-1708 Bergen St. in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section, are among the few surviving residences on Old Hunterfly Road. A stretch of that colonial road can be seen in the middle of the squared city block on which the four houses stand.

Harmon Goldstone, chairman of the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, announced the designation.

Cites Significance

Goldstone said the four cottages were significant because they stand on the outskirts of what was Weeksville, an early 19th century community of free Negroes.

The newly-formed society for the preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant history hopes to acquire the cottages on Hunterfly Road and establish a local museum.

The designation by the Landmarks Commission must be approved by the City Planning Commission and the Board of Estimate. After those bodies have given their approval, no one may change the exterior appearance of the cottages or demolish them without permission of the landmarks commission.

The Search for old Weeksville began in 1968 in a Pratt Neighborhood College workshop on Brooklyn neighborhoods which Jim Hurley had volunteered to lead. Dolores McCullough and Patricia Johnson became workshop students. Because so little was known at that time, the group focused on researching Weeksville, the 19th century settlement of African-Americans living in Brooklyn.



Twenty years later in 1988, aviator Joe Haynes and historian Jim Hurley remember the 1968 airplane ride during which they found the Hunterfly Road Landmarks.



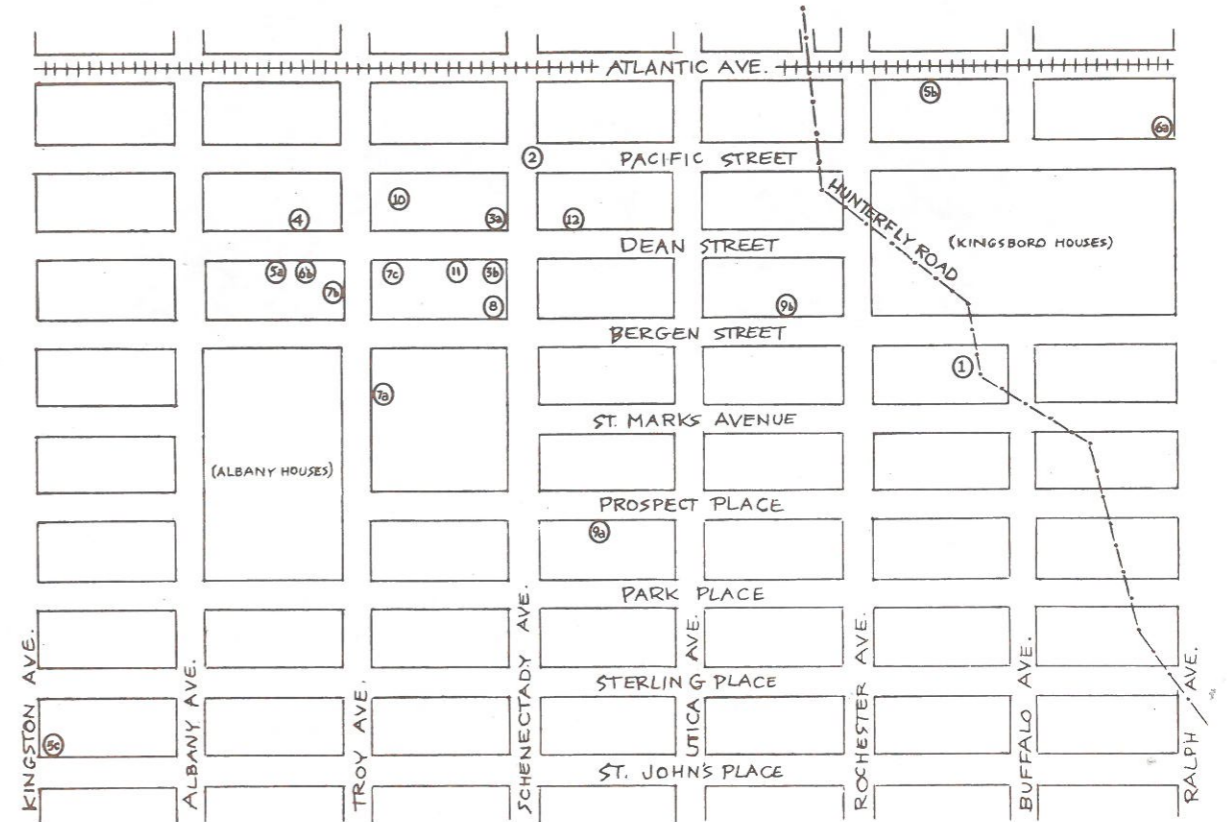
Dolores McCullough and Patricia Johnson are seen exploring for evidence of old Weeksville in 1968.

WHY THE WEEKSVILLE SOCIETY STARTED

The people who founded the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville & Bedford-Stuyvesant History in 1971 formed an organization so that they could carry out the dream of the children of the Weeksville School. First the Society had to raise the money to buy the property. Then they had to raise the money to pay for the restoration. Then they had to find experts who knew how to preserve and restore such old buildings. After many years of struggle and hard work, the landmarks are nearing completion.

Perhaps some of the things you are learning in school will help us to complete the task of making the Weeksville African-American History Museum.

Photographs in this book are by Jim Hurley, Alex King, William Cary and Michael Devonshire



HISTORIC WEEKSVILLE

(A 19th century community of African-Americans named for James Weeks who bought property there in 1838.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Hunterfly Road Houses | 7a. Site of Colored School #2-1847 |
| 2. Site of James Weeks House | b. Site of Colored School #2-1886 |
| 3a. Bethel Tabernacle A.M.E. Church | c. Weeksville School, present site |
| b. Present location | 8. Site original P.S. #83 |
| 4. Site of African Civilization Society | Later site P.S. #83 (Same as 3b) |
| 5a. Site of Zion Home for the Colored Aged | 9a. Site Berean Church, 1851 |
| b. Site of Home in 1892 | b. Present site Berean Church |
| c. Brooklyn Home for the Aged | 10. Site 1968/69 Archeological Dig |
| 6a. Howard Orphanage, early site, | Present Weeksville Gardens Houses |
| b. Expanded site | 11. Original site of St. Phillips Church |
| | 12. Our Lady of Charity Church |

Map: Pratt Center for Community & Environmental Development and Joan Maynard.



Views of 1700 Bergen Street before and after the 1982 restoration. This house was built in 1883, the same year the Brooklyn Bridge was completed.

In the Brooklyn County Clerk's Office is a **document** called 'Brooklyn farm Plan 72.' Within it is a record of a land transfer, dated May 13, 1693 between the 'inhabitants of Broockland to Jacobus Vanderwater.' A section of the land described is the site of the historic Hunterfly Road Houses of Weeksville. The houses were built from 1840 through 1883.

They are now owned by the Weeksville Society. In 1971, children from the Weeksville School, P.S. 243 raised nearly \$1000 to start the restoration project. Since then support for the work has come from private, city, state and federal sources. When completed the landmark houses will serve the people as a museum of African-American History.



In a 1982 staff photo are: Roger LaFleur, Apprentice; Michael Devonshire, Craftsman; Gregory Ward, Neighborhood Workshop; Thomas Paske, Craftsman; Juan Moro, Apprentice; William Cary, Restoration Director; Joan Maynard, Executive Director; Agnes Conway, Secretary; Melvin Cummings, Researcher; Clement Scantlebury, Bookkeeper.

DEFINITIONS OF WORDS USED IN "LET'S MAKE A LANDMARK"

African-American	An American of African descent.
apprentice	one who is learning by practical experience under skilled workers.
archaeology	the scientific study of material remains of past human life and activities.
architect	one who designs buildings and superintends their construction.
architecture	the art or science of building or method and style of building.
artifact	a simple object (such as a tool or ornament) showing human workmanship.
aviator	operator or pilot of airplane.
carpenter	a workman who builds or repairs wooden structures or their structural parts.
circa	around.
clapboard	a narrow board, usually thicker at one edge than the other, used for siding.
community	people with common interests living in a particular area.
craftsman	a workman who practices a trade or handicraft.
document	an original or official paper relied on as proof.
draftsman	one who draws plans and sketches (as in structures).
dream	strongly desired goal or purpose.
heritage	anything passed on to succeeding generations.
history	chronological record of significant events and an explanation of their causes.
landmarks	an object or building of unusual historical or aesthetic interest: one which is officially designated and set aside for preservation.
mason	a skilled workman who builds by laying up units of stone or brick.
news release	a prepared statement released to the news media.
occupation	the principal business of one's life.
oral history	history given directly in spoken words.
organization	an association or society for a particular purpose.
plumber	one who installs, repairs and maintains piping, fittings and fixtures involved in the distribution of water in a building.
reporter	one employed by a newspaper to gather and write news.
research	careful search and investigation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts.
restoration	act of bringing back to a former or improved condition.
shingles	small thin pieces of building materials . . . for laying in overlapping rows as a covering for a roof or side of building.
wampum	beads of polished shells, strung in strands used by North American Indians as money, pledges or ornaments.

"YOUR DICTIONARY IS YOUR GOOD FRIEND"

Message to the Teacher

1. The main idea is for a class or group to take a new interest in the **history** and **heritage** of a people.
2. The educational potential for using even parts of this model can stimulate student interest not only in local history but in seeing themselves in a new perspective.
3. Simple instructions for a child to **MAKE A LANDMARK HOUSE** are on the cover. The model serves to reinforce the ideas and words used in this book.

Things to do in the Classroom

1. Oral History interviews in the neighborhood with parents, grandparents, teachers, tradesmen, older friends and relatives.
2. Research the name and history of your school, institutions and streets in your neighborhood.
3. Discuss careers mentioned in **LET'S MAKE A LANDMARK** such as architect, craftsman, plumber or careers helping to produce this booklet like printer, typist, artist, photographer and the reading and writing skills needed for all these tasks.
4. Take a walking tour of your neighborhood. What can the buildings tell you about when they were built. Do any of the buildings have cornerstones?
5. Read poetry and stories about the African-American experience. Your librarian can help you choose some books. Perhaps you would enjoy and find useful **PRESENT MEETS PAST: A Guide to Exploring Community History** by Gretchen Sullivan Sorin published in 1986 by the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York 13326.

Would you like to know more about Developing Community as Classroom/Social Studies?
You may contact: Bank Street College, Follow Through Resource Center, The Weeksville School,
P.S. 243, 1580 Dean Street, Brooklyn, New York 11213.



Would you like to know more about Weeksville?
You can get a free copy of the photofilled 50 page
booklet **WEEKSVILLE, THEN & NOW**. Send \$1.50
to cover cost of mailing with your name and address to:
The Weeksville Society
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Brooklyn, New York 11213-0002