This tour looks at Atlantic Avenue in its stages of growth, as well as the diverse cultures and personalities that make this 11-block strip so unique today. Take time out to explore some of the exciting shops and delicious restaurants en route.

The numbering of Atlantic Avenue buildings was largely established by 1889. Of course, whenever a cluster of buildings was demolished and replaced by one or two larger ones, a localized stretch of numbers changed. The last major renumbering seems to have taken place around the 1880s. As far as we can determine, the numbers listed in this guide for past establishments match current numbers — when they still exist — on the Avenue.

Reference notes in the text are keyed to the listing of References on page 23.

Using This Guide

The text that refers to historical businesses once found here, where buildings still exist, is introduced with this symbol. Buildings no longer in existence are marked with this symbol.

Additional information, both historic and modern, is provided with this symbol. This box provides a brief summary of each block.

Atlantic Avenue is represented by a horizontal line throughout the book which divides north (odd) and south (even).

Guide Key

Map

Using This Guide

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This self-guided walking tour, featuring 11 blocks from the East River to Fourth Avenue, will introduce you to the rich history and unique shopping adventure that makes Atlantic Avenue the perfect place to spend a day!

View the nineteenth century architecture and original Victorian storefronts, and discover the beginnings of the Avenue’s international waterfront commerce and manufacturing. As you walk along, compare the photographs and prints made when the Avenue was young with what you see today. Many of these images from the 1800s and early 1900s are reproduced here through courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society.

In the 1960s, the City Landmarks Preservation Commission helped to protect the architectural legacy of Atlantic Avenue from Henry to Court Streets with its historic designation. The blocks from Court Street to Flatbush Avenue were made a Special Zoning District in 1972, ensuring compatible renovation of facades and storefronts.

Today Atlantic Avenue is renowned for its popular “Antiques Row,” Middle Eastern specialty food shops, fine restaurants with international cuisine, pubs, and cafés, as well as a host of boutiques, modern home furnishings, and gift shops. Once a year around late September the Atlantic Antic, one of the largest street fairs in New York City, is held here.

THE ATLANTIC AVENUE BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS “BROOKLYN’S HISTORIC ATLANTIC AVENUE: WALKING GUIDE”

AN AVENUE DESIGNED FOR WALKING

The Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association (AABA) is working to improve the ambiance of our Avenue. We have commissioned the Project for Public Spaces — an urban design group — to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment running from Court to Smith Streets. Right now, most of the buildings on these blocks are so unappealing that they create a gap between the two communities of downtown — the Brooklyn Heights/Cobble Hill neighborhoods and Boerum Hill.

Our plan will make crossings safer for pedestrians, add trees and more period lights, and initiate public art projects and outdoor markets. We are also promoting construction of a more accessible entrance to the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel of the Brooklyn Historical Railway.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The history of Atlantic Avenue as we know it today began in the 1700s. First it was a private road terminating at Ralph Patchen’s farm on the East River. This country lane was swallowed up by District Street, which became the southernmost boundary of The Village of Brooklyn, incorporated in 1816. In 1855, District was renamed Atlantic Street, and by the 1870s designated an Avenue.

In the late 1800s, fashionable shopping along with waterfront commerce and manufacturing firms defined the Avenue. Along the blocks closest to Fourth Avenue, a mini-revitalization around the 1920s spurred construction of the YWCA of Brooklyn, the Times Plaza Post Office, and the Times Plaza Hotel. On blocks nearer the waterfront Middle Eastern immigrants began opening restaurants and food shops in the 1930s. Many of these businesses are still run by descendants of the original merchants.
† FERRY HOUSE

Taking advantage in 1836 of a new ferry service to Whitehall Street in Manhattan from “South Ferry,” as the foot of Atlantic Avenue was then called, an influx of middle class citizens raced to Brooklyn overrunning farmlands and constructing mansions and rowhouses. Suburbia was born!

In the late 1800s, ferries ran every 10 minutes in the daytime; evenings and nights, the schedule was only slightly less ambitious. In 1888, 40,000,000 passengers passed through this depot.†

By 1933, bridges and tunnels so reduced revenues that service was terminated.

† FLINT GLASS WORKS

On May 1, 1823 the Brooklyn artillery saluted and the community turned out for the laying of the cornerstone for a new factory. John L. Gilliland & Co. manufactured glass on water’s edge real estate (today bordered by Atlantic, State, Hicks, and the East River). The land cost $7,000.

For 30 years Mr. Gilliland supplied New York City with gaslight globes. In 1851, he won a medal for flint glass at London’s Crystal Palace; at that time the company was called the Brooklyn Flint Glass Works. By 1855 Gilliland had gone bankrupt, and in 1868 the new, reorganized company moved to Corning, NY. Boats carried the factory’s machinery and molds up the Hudson River and over four canals; 100 employees resettled upstate with the new Corning Flint Glass Works — today known as Corning Inc.

† BENJAMIN MOORE PAINT FACTORY

Benjamin Moore, recently arrived from Ireland, set up a paint factory in 55 Atlantic Avenue with his brother William in 1883. A year later the building burned. According to company history, Benjamin Moore was the last person to exit the conflagration.

No wonder Moore paints don’t run!

† COLUMBIA PLACE

Before Robert Moses and the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway steam-rollered much of Brooklyn’s shoreline, a community thrived. Columbia Place still met Atlantic in the early 1940s.

EAST RIVER TO BQE

Once the waterfront supported a thriving commercial port with regular ferry service to Manhattan. Vessels from all over the world docked here, releasing their international cargoes and crews. Businesses flourished and declined until the 1940s and 1950s when New York City began construction for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. Then any institution, falling in the pathway of the new Expressway, received its death knell. Only historical illustrations remain as witness to this part of the old Avenue, which ran to the East River.
BQE TO HICKS TO HENRY

THE PLAQ U E The plaque in the newly renovated Palmetto Playground identifies Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and Commissioner Robert Moses.

PALMETTO PARK

This park was updated in 1999 with colorful modern play apparatus and ball-playing courts, as well as space for a community garden. It was designed in 1937 by Park Commissioner Robert Moses.

73

MONTERO BAR & GRILL

For more than half a century, Pilar Montero and her late husband Joe ran this bar. Established in 1940 at 56 Atlantic until Robert Moses’s Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) condemned that part of the Avenue, Montero’s still reflects the once-thriving seaport thronged with sailors on shore leave and longshoremen. Much of the Avenue’s history still lives inside these walls.

75

HEIGHTS DELI-GROCERY

Atlantic Street

Look up at the corner of the building at number 75 — it identifies the thoroughfare when it was called Atlantic Street.

110

LONG ISLAND BAR & RESTAURANT

Scranton & Company

Before 1900, Scranton & Co. sold “groceries, wines, liquors etc.” at 110; in 1884 annual sales were recorded at $150,000. “Scranton & Co. is noteworthy as the donor of a house and lot on Atlantic between Third and Fourth Avenues (see page 20, 520 Atlantic) for auction at the Sanitary Fair for Brooklyn and Long Island.

115

JERE J. CRONIN FUNERAL HOME

In 1896, Irish immigrants Jere J. Cronin and his brother founded this funeral parlor, one of few businesses remaining from the 1800s. Mr. Cronin opened in number 103 and then moved to 115, notice the “C” on the elaborate parapet at the top of this building.

LONG ISLAND BAR & RESTAURANT

Emma Sullivan brings a soda to one of her dinners in her family-run restaurant, which has been located at 110 since 1951.

115

THE CRONIN BROTHERS In front of their first parlor at 103 Atlantic Avenue.

(Courtesy of Raymond Perillo, Jere J. Cronin Inc.)

BQE TO HICKS TO HENRY

These two blocks mark the beginning of today’s shopping blocks along Atlantic Avenue. Brooklyn’s early development began closest to the river and spread up the Avenue — spurred by the Brooklyn-Manhattan ferry, which commenced service in 1836. Many of the buildings on these blocks date from the 1850s.
HENRY TO CLINTON

124-128 TODAY NUMBERED 124-134
LONIsLAND COLLEGE
HOSPITAL AUXILIARY OFFICES

JOURNEY & BURNHAM’S
Looking for a corset? A cloak? A shawl, embroidery, lace, satin — perhaps a parasol? In the late 1800s, Journey & Burnham’s could help you. This four-story dry-goods shop, on this site since 1851, was celebrated as “headquarters in Brooklyn for bargains and low prices.” H.P. Journey lived above his famous establishment at 126 Atlantic. Journey & Burnham’s moved to Flatbush Avenue in the 1890s.

124-128
ATLANTIC-PACIFIC CHANDLERY MANUFACTURING CO.

By 1922, the Atlantic-Pacific Chandlery Manufacturing Co. was supplying provisions for ships docked at the busy waterfront. Look for the ghosting of the company name — still visible on the building.

AKIO’S HATHOUSE
Akio Chou designs and makes all the hats he sells here — from distinctive street wear to theatrical creations for Lincoln Center.

147

PETER’S WATERFRONT ALE HOUSE
This congregation once worshiped at 155. On August 31, 1862, accompanied by a marching band, members carried their Scrolls of the Law from here to their just-built synagogue at Boerum Pt. and State St.

Today, the congregation worships at 236 Kane St. in Cobble Hill.

155

CITIZENS’ GAS COMPANY
In 1896, after years of price wars, unethical competition, and violence, Citizens’ Gas Co. consolidated with Metropolitan Gas, located at 563 Atlantic Ave., and four other illuminating companies to form Brooklyn Union Gas, today renamed KeySpan. (SEE PAGE 21, 563 ATLANTIC)

180

HENRY TO CLINTON

Today this block is known as “Restaurant Row.” Over the past few decades, a diverse collection of fine dining experiences has developed. These establishments now attract local and citywide diners to sample a smorgasbord of international cuisine.

Many of the buildings here date back to the 1850s when Journey & Burnham’s dry-goods store (at 124-128) offered the height of fashion for Brooklyn shoppers.
Could the Atheneum Concert Hall — built in 1853 on this site — have been Brooklyn’s first indoor mall with a theater? “The first floor is arranged for mercantile purposes. On the second floor is a large, well-lighted and commodious reading-room, an excellent library-room, and a number of private rooms. The third floor is a lecture-room or concert-hall, which is capable of seating about 2,000 people.” The hall was demolished in 1922.

Lines of shoppers in search of scarce commodities after World War II snaked for blocks waiting to shop in the A&P. In 1975, fire devastated the A&P. Today Key Food is in business here.

“Lines of shoppers in search of scarce commodities after World War II snaked for blocks waiting to shop in the A&P. In 1975, fire devastated the A&P. Today Key Food is in business here.”

The colorful tile floor is typical of those found in 1920s and 30s ice cream parlors.

Charlie Sahadi’s father opened this ethnic food store in 1948 specializing in Middle Eastern fare; today the greatly expanded shop features specialty foods from all over the world.

The Brooklyn Homeopathic Medical Society of the County of Kings set up its headquarters in 178. The building was “thoroughly and admirably fitted up for the purpose of a dispensary [open daily from 1 to 4 pm] with pharmacy, consultation and operating rooms, a valuable collection of surgical instruments, library, etc., making it one of the most completely equipped institutions of the kind in the city.”

If you didn’t like the services here, you could pop over to Long Island College Hospital, founded in 1857 at Henry and Pacific Streets. A cupper and a leecher held places on staff then.

This four-story commercial building, dating from 1873, still has its original Greek revival cast-iron facade and roof cornice.

Around the 1930s, an influx of Middle Eastern immigrants settled and established businesses here. Their restaurants and shops offer specialty foods from the Middle East as well as Middle Eastern music, books, clothing, and other assorted items. Today, the fame of this block extends well beyond the five boroughs.

In the late 1800s, the anchor of this block was the South Brooklyn Savings Institution at 160. Today the Independence Community Bank at the corner of Court commands our attention. (See page 22, Bank.)
**COURT TO BOERUM TO SMITH**

Once soot-spewing locomotives steamed up and down the Avenue. In 1844, the Atlantic Tunnel — a half mile of underground tracks from Boerum Place to “South Ferry” — was constructed. Sealed by 1861, the tunnel quickly slipped from memory into folklore. Rumors of spies, prohibition liquor-making, and mushroom farming can still be heard from area residents, who insist that sub-basements offered egress to the tunnel. In the 1980s, engineer Robert Diamond rediscovered the “lost” tunnel. Today you can visit it and see its elaborate barrel arch brickwork. To find out about tours, contact Diamond at 718-941-3160.

**RED HOOK LANE**
Stand across the street or duck into the gas station next to 234 Atlantic, and look up at the slanted side wall of 228-230 Red Hook Lane, which once zigzagged across the present grid of streets all the way to Red Hook “was laid out, according to record, on the 6th of June, 1760 … and although mostly swallowed up by the growth of the city a remnant still survives, between Fulton avenue and Livingston street, and is particularly noticeable as containing the modest retreat of the Board of Education.”

You can still visit that last block of Red Hook Lane!

**2 RED HOOK LANE**

**TUNNEL**

The three balls of Arthur Heaney’s pawnbroker business are still visible here. The firm, established in 1893, survives today as Modell’s at 150 Atlantic Avenue.

**214**

**ARTHUR J. HEANEY,**
**LICENSED PAWNBROKER**
The three balls of Arthur Heaney’s pawnbroker business are still visible here. The firm, established in 1893, survives today as Modell’s at 150 Atlantic Avenue.

**253-259**

**NORTHEAST CORNER OF BOERUM & ATLANTIC**

MILLER’S FURNITURE STORE

At Miller’s Furniture Store, it was business as usual before 1957 when the Brooklyn House of Detention for Men came to dominate this block.

**278**

**BROOKLYN HEIGHTS BIKE SHOPPE**

**IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC DELICACIES, AND FANCY GROCERIES**

On this same site before 1900, William Meyer was a prosperous fancy grocer. “Mr. Meyer offers special inducements to buyers in first-class teas from China and Japan, coffees from South America, Mocha, and Java, spices, sugars, canned goods of every description, and all kinds of fancy and staple groceries. He also keeps on hand at all times the finest imported and domestic sauerkraut, pickled beans, and Dill pickles, and all kinds of imported Stohlwerk’s cocoa and chocolate, Knorr’s prepared soups, French and Italian macaroni, and all kinds of nuts and fruits.”

**278 BROOKLYN HEIGHTS BIKE SHOPPE**

Manager Tony Scarselli never spins his wheels. He’s too busy selling bicycles and bike accessories and servicing bikes in this 20-year establishment.
**Smith to Hoyt**

If the weather is warm, take a break and enjoy the scents and colors of the Hoyt Street Community Garden.

The Italianate-style buildings on this block were built in the mid to late 1800s, probably around the 1860s and 70s. The Art Deco-style structure at 312 was erected later around 1920.

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**93 Smith Street**

**St. Clair Restaurant**

Still family run, St. Clair Restaurant opened in the corner building sometime in the 1930s. The present owner’s father bought it in 1967.

**308**

**George P. Treiss Jewelry**

It’s fair to assume that George P. Treiss, a jeweler at this address, was a proud man — successful enough to construct this Italianate-style building that today records his name and the date at the top.

**312**

**National Cash Register**

From 1930 to 1947, a National Cash Register branch operated out of this Art Deco-style building with its stylized details. The office showroom handled sales and service for downtown Brooklyn.

**315**

**Lucretia Mott Dispensary**

In 1886, the Lucretia Mott Dispensary opened its doors here. Women physicians treated women and children.

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**1984 Streets of India, Luna Park, Coney Island** from “Views of Coney Island,” vol. 2, a scrapbook collected by Eugene Arimbuster. (Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society)

**Barnum and Bailey’s Street Parade**

In 1894, you could stand right here and see the “Greatest Show on Earth.” Barnum and Bailey’s street parade marched down Atlantic Avenue from Fourth Avenue to Clinton Street. The parade featured “the sovereigns of the world,” like those shown in this illustration.

**320**

**Brooklyn Grill**

Owner Peter Correa and chef James Henderson serve contemporary American cuisine, including asparagus salad and pork chops with garlic clams. Try the backyard in warm weather.
The density of antique dealers on this block is exceptionally high — thus it is known as “Antiques Row.” In the 1960s and 70s, antiques shops began to cluster here, as well as on adjoining blocks, spurring an economic revitalization. Today the antiques shops have been joined by other intriguing furnishing stores, many of which sell contemporary designs by Brooklyn-based artisans. Some of the Italianate-style buildings on this block feature original Victorian details; you can see decorations on 375, 377 and 377A and across the street on the façades of 362 to 364A, 394 and 396.

**BREUKELLEN**

John Erik Snyder sells contemporary design housewares and furnishings. He showcases the work of local artists.

**ANTIQUES ROW**

**CIRCA**

Since 1974, Rachel Leibowicz has been collecting and selling nineteenth-century furniture and accessories. Her storefront still maintains its original nineteenth-century century details.

**CENTRAL FOR THANATOLOGY**

Roberta Halpern established this center “to help change people’s attitudes about death.” She has a 2,000-book library and a computerized list of national helping organizations. She sells books and gravestone rubbing supplies. Call to visit: 718-858-3026.

**VICTORIANA**

Look for the mementoes of the Avenue’s Victorian heyday. Rope moldings, shields, flowers and shells still frame some store windows and are tucked in doorways and on.

**PRESTIGE UPHOLSTERY**

Planning a party? In the 1870s Charles Schafer was your man. In addition to his passion for music, he sold groceries out of his shop here and lived upstairs.

**TIME TRADER ANTQUES**

The name of this former school survives, in Hebrew, over the front door: Talmud Torah Beth Jacob Joseph. "The school took care of the children in the neighborhood of Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street. In 1936, since there are few Jews in that section, instruction is given by the sexton to those children who venture into the building or whose parents are insistent upon the children’s getting some Hebrew training. Religious services are held in the Talmud Torah every day."

**HISTORIC INTERIORS**

The Italianate-style buildings on this block feature original Victorian details; you can see decorations on 375, 377 and 377A and across the street on the façades of 362 to 364A, 394 and 396.
BOND TO NEVINS

ST. CYRIL’S OF TURAU CATHEDRAL

The congregation of St. Cyril’s of Turau Parish of the Belarusian Autocephalic Orthodox Church worships here. This congregation was established in 1950 by refugees from Belarus in the former USSR.

3 Before this church with its modified gothic-style windows was built, another structure was erected in 1850 by St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.4 In 1857, Reformed Presbyterians bought and, in turn, resold it to the Second United Presbyterian Church in 1863.

In 1902, the Second United Presbyterian Church laid the cornerstone for the present building.

BEDOUIN TENT

Walid Demis serves Middle Eastern “slow food” in his cozy restaurant and outdoors in the garden. His favorites: green pitza, lambajin, chicken ouzi, and falafel.

HOUSE OF THE LORD PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Today the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church occupies this century-old Romanesque-style building. Activist minister Reverend Herbert Daughtry has been preaching and reaching out to assist the community since the 1950s. The Reverend Jesse Jackson, Stokely Carmichael, and Winnie Mandela are among the notables who have spoken here.

A congregation of Congregationalists — the Swedish Pilgrim’s Evangelical Church — worshiped here first in 1893.

ATLANTIC HARDWARE

3 APOTHECARY

In 1886 Herman Ihlo, with “a large German and general family trade,” purchased an established apothecary in this corner Italianate-style building. “He occupies a very neat, commodious store [with just about everything] comprehended in drugs, medicines, and chemicals, acids, extracts, essences, herbs, barks, roots, and botanical medicines, all the standard proprietary remedies, pharmaceutical preparations, sanitary specialties, and druggists’...”

405

BOTTLE — (Courtesy of Anheuser-Busch Archives)

404

407

CA. 1910, CORNER OF ATLANTIC AND NEVINS (Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society):

407

405

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BOND TO NEVINS

The odd-numbered side of this block features two historic churches and a former factory, converted in 1975 into luxury co-op apartments.

Don’t miss the exceptional stretch of historically accurate Victorian storefronts on the even-numbered side of Atlantic, and the three remaining façades on the Italianate-style structures across the street at 405, 407 and 409.

407

CA. 1910: BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE POST CARD.

(Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society)

405

BEDOUIN TENT

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407

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VICTORIAN STOREFRONTS

A construction boom, fueled by the Civil War, dovetailed with new technology for making plate glass. Thus was born a shopping avenue with large windows that allowed customers to eyeball merchandise (for the first time!) without setting foot inside a store. Numbers 404 to 416 along with 420 offer a dramatic stretch of historically accurate Victorian storefronts.

407

CA. 1910, CORNER OF ATLANTIC AND NEVINS (Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society):

405

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NEVINS TO THIRD

Much has happened along this block, particularly it seems, around the 1920s when the commercial building at 469-475, the huge YWCA of Brooklyn at the corner of Third, and the former hotel at 510 were constructed. The older Italianate-style buildings were built in the mid to late 1800s.

455 Side Wall at Northeast Corner of Nevins & Atlantic

Orange Outdoor Advertising

Sign painter Jerry Johnson has been amusing passersby since 1982 with his satirical billboards on this corner. He calls his work “blatant self-promotion.” And the topics? Simple: “whatever’s in the paper or whatever’s bothering me that day.”

CA 1988

During the war years, this “Y” remained open 24 hours each day providing classes, recreation, and social activities. (Photo courtesy of the YWCA of Brooklyn)

YWCA OF BROOKLYN

The YWCA of Brooklyn, opened in 1892, moved in 1927 from its original home at 376 Schermerhorn St. to Atlantic Avenue — “an eleven-story building erected at a cost of $1,788,238. Its facilities include two gymnasiums, a swimming pool, class and club rooms, an audience hall, a domestic science department and laboratories. On the four upper floors is Post Hall, a residence accommodating 235 young women.” Activities were segregated until 1943, when the branch became one of the nation’s first YWCAs to integrate. Today the “Y” is an active neighborhood institution, offering daycare, after-school and sports activities for children as well as classes and recreational facilities for adults.

492 The Melting Pot

Nancy Cogen designs and makes hand-crafted clothing in the traditional batik method. Her inspired, often fanciful, designs appeal to all ages. Learn about batiking and watch the work in progress.

503 Royal Grocery

Built around the turn of the last century, this Beaux-Arts style building was designed for commercial use.

510-512

† Several small buildings once lined the cobblestoned street; today only the building at the extreme left, 514 Atlantic, still exists.

510 The Muhlenberg

Before the Lutheran Community Services renovated 510 Atlantic into the Muhlenberg Residence, the Times Plaza Hotel, its previous occupant, had fallen on hard times. The structure features bold Art Deco detailing.

30 Third Avenue

Northwest corner of Atlantic

The headline in the July 4, 1927 Brooklyn Eagle read “Old Brooklyn Concern Takes New Atlantic Avenue Building.” Stephen H. Cornell, owner of S.W. Cornell hardware store, had just leased the about-to-be-built three-story structure. In 1872 the late Samuel W. Cornell had purchased an already established hardware business, opened in 1853, at 121-125 Court Street. Notice the dates at the top of the building.

475 Carpet Warehouse, D. Kalfaian & Son

D. Kalfaian & Son, Inc., purchased this building in 1975. Four generations of the Kalfaian family have run the business since it opened in 1907 on Schermerhorn Street.

2 S.W. Cornell Hardware

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S.W. Cornell Hardware

(Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society)
543  

AHUL BAYT ISLAMIC LIBRARY

Don’t be fooled by the modern stucco facade on this brick building.


532  

MACK BROTHERS SHOP

Big Macks were born here... and not the kind you eat. In 1900, Mack Brothers wagon builders moved into a large brick stable and foundry — previously used by the Atlantic Avenue horse car lines. Here, the Mack Brothers manufactured the first of generations of motorized vehicles — a bus used for touring Prospect Park!


542  

U.S. POST OFFICE

TIMES PLAZA STATION

Built in 1925, this building features a nicely proportioned and detailed stone facade, one of the better examples from the era.

Upstairs used to house the headquarters of Local 361 of the Ironworkers Union — the city’s bridge builders, many of whom were Mohawk Indians living locally.


568  

MADINA

LONG ISLAND FREE LIBRARY

At the turn of the last century, the Long Island Free Library opened on this site — daily from 8 in the morning to 9 at night, except Sundays and holidays. In 1893, its free reading room held 7,500 volumes.1


552-554  

MASJID AL-FAROOQ

The congregation of the Masjid Al-Farooq worships in this Beaux-Arts style building. If the time is right, you will hear the loud-speaker call to prayers.
References

3. Brooklyn Daily Eagle, April 21, 1894; July 4, 1927
5. Brooklyn Register and Buyers’ Guide, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, 1930
7. Callender, James M., Yesterdays on Brooklyn Heights, Dorland Press, 1927
16. Our Firemen: The Official History of the Brooklyn Fire Department: Compiled from Department Records, Brooklyn, 1892

160 ClINTON HILL CLEANERS EVON PHARMACY
SOUTH BROOKLYN SAVINGS INSTITUTION

This once-grand Greek revival bank was built in 1871. It was the original home of the South Brooklyn Savings Institution which moved to the imposing building at the other end of the block at 130 Court St. “Its interiors were reputedly finished with rare marbles and handsome black walnut woodwork. The vault was constructed of granite blocks mortised to receive cannon balls between each pair so that the stones could not be forced out of alignment without demolishing the entire wall.”

Early 20th CENTURY

The South Brooklyn Savings Institution building is still new. Note the power lines above and the trolley tracks in the cobblestone avenue. Although there was never one Atlantic Avenue trolley, the Cross Street, Fifth Avenue and Erie Basin lines traveled a few blocks along the Avenue. The last trolley disappeared from here in 1951. (Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society)

1902

The year before the South Brooklyn Savings Institution opened at 160 Atlantic. Some 50 years later, the bank (today renamed Independence Community Bank) moved to the southwest corner of Court Street. See pages 8 and 9 for more about this block of Atlantic from Clinton to Court.

ClINTON TO COURT

No shopping center is complete without a bank. In 1871, the South Brooklyn Savings Institution opened at 160 Atlantic. Some 50 years later, the bank (today renamed Independence Community Bank) moved to the southwest corner of Court Street. See pages 8 and 9 for more about this block of Atlantic from Clinton to Court.

THANKS

This guide was produced by the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association (AABA), a not-for-profit membership organization, representing a strong partnership between local businesses and the community, on and around Atlantic Avenue between Hicks and Fourth Avenue.

AABA was formed in 1993 to address the concerns of the hundreds of people who live and work here. AABA members are dedicated to preserving the historic character of the Avenue, as well as improving our quality of life and work, on issues such as safety, traffic calming, zening issues, sanitation, and Avenue beautification. To find out more about our organization, write to us at 321 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

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