

2015 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

PS/IS 30

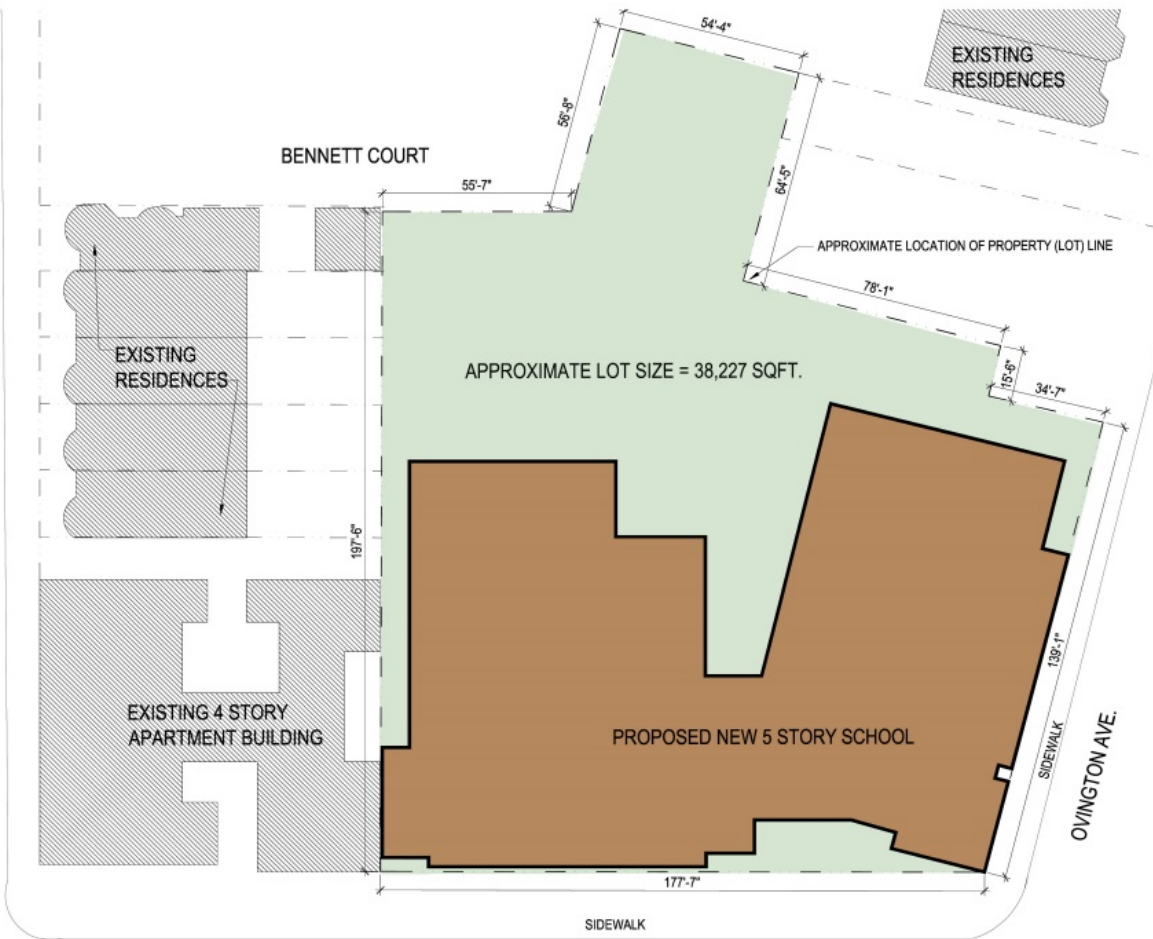
Mary White Ovington School
New Construction

New York City
Brooklyn, NY

PS/IS 30 Mary White Ovington School



Photo: Brett Beyer



PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN



Context

Community Environment:

The challenge was to design a building that would employ the latest technologies available for 21st century learning on a site of significant historical importance and Zoning complexity.

The site is influenced by a number of contextual issues. Generally the site is influenced by 4th Ave. a major thoroughfare in Brooklyn. It runs south from Flatbush Ave. to Fort Hamilton Park and serves as a “Main Street” for much of the Park Slope and Bay Ridge communities. More specifically it is defined by the Bay Ridge neighborhood in which the project is located. The area enjoys a rich urban fabric defined and influenced by an eclectic collection of churches that create a sense of place and give the neighborhood its context.

The project is located on the site of one of the most defining of these churches. The Bay Ridge United Methodist Church's neo-Romanesque style had a great impact on the character of the neighborhood as it developed. The church's placement on the site which was parallel to Ovington Avenue set it eschew to its neighbors affording it a prominence unique along this portion of 4th Avenue. The church, which served for over 100 years, was affectionately known as the “Green Church” because of the light green hue of the “serpentine” stone used in its construction and its clock tower was a significant landmark in the neighborhood. The clock tower along with the building's broad gables affected the design of subsequent buildings in the neighborhood including churches, apartment buildings and commercial buildings.



Context

Community Environment:

Of special note is the historical significance of the site and the magnificent church which once stood upon it. The church, which served for over 100 years, was affectionately known as the “Green Church” because of the light green hue of the “serpentine” stone used in its construction.

The church's clock tower was a significant landmark in the area and among the many stained glass windows was a dramatic rose or “wheel” window that was fitted into the church's main window in 1969. It is the work of a local artist and church member named. Fortunately, not only was that window saved, but was restored and placed above the main entrance of the school. Also, the new clock tower, which anchors the school on the corner, is reminiscent of the former church's tower. As a final homage to the former church, the school was sheathed in cast-stone colored to mimic the “serpentine” stone.

“The Celebration of a Local Icon as a Monument to a Neighborhoods Future”

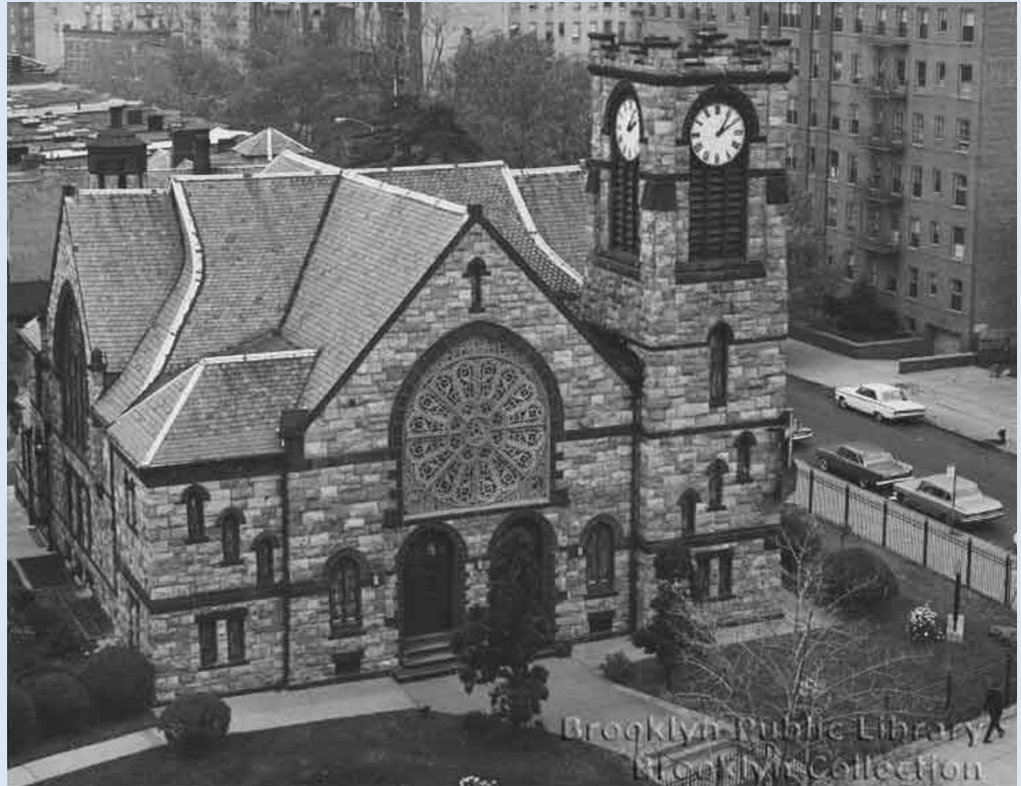


Photo: Brooklyn Public Library Archives



Photo: Brett Beyer

Library and Auditorium

Learning Environment:

This school relies on cues from its surrounding context and site's history and creates a subtle blend of the new and old. It takes advantages of all of the latest technologies including Smart boards, wireless internet, and occupancy-activated classroom lighting to name a few, while still leaving a historically sensitive impression on the neighborhood.



Classroom & Science

Learning Environment:

The goal was to achieve a balance between the needs of the school and students while addressing the former church's impact on the surrounding community. In addition to that, the challenge was to provide an outstanding building that would create a sense of civic pride for the students and a feeling of importance.



Photos: Brett Beyer

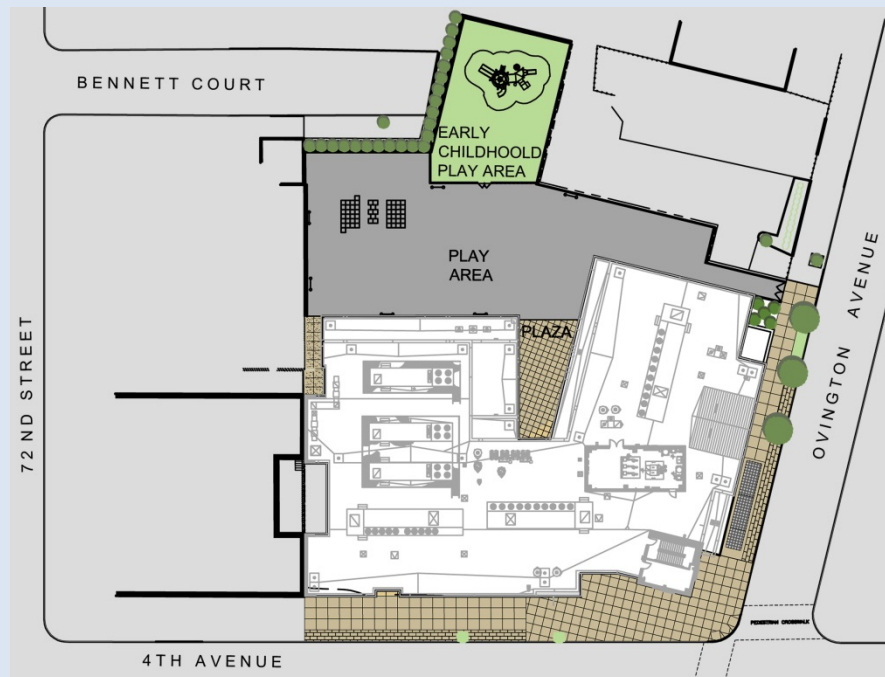
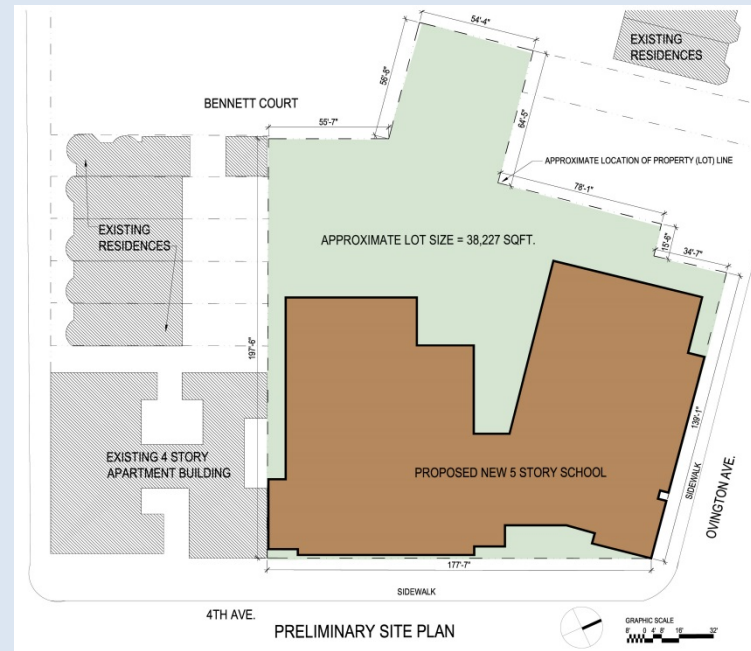
The Building

Physical Environment:

The 4-story (plus cellar), building has an irregular footprint of approximately 22,700 SF. The gross area varies from floor to floor with a total floor area of approximately 98,277 SF (including the cellar).

There were several issues beyond these obvious contextual ones that the team addressed:

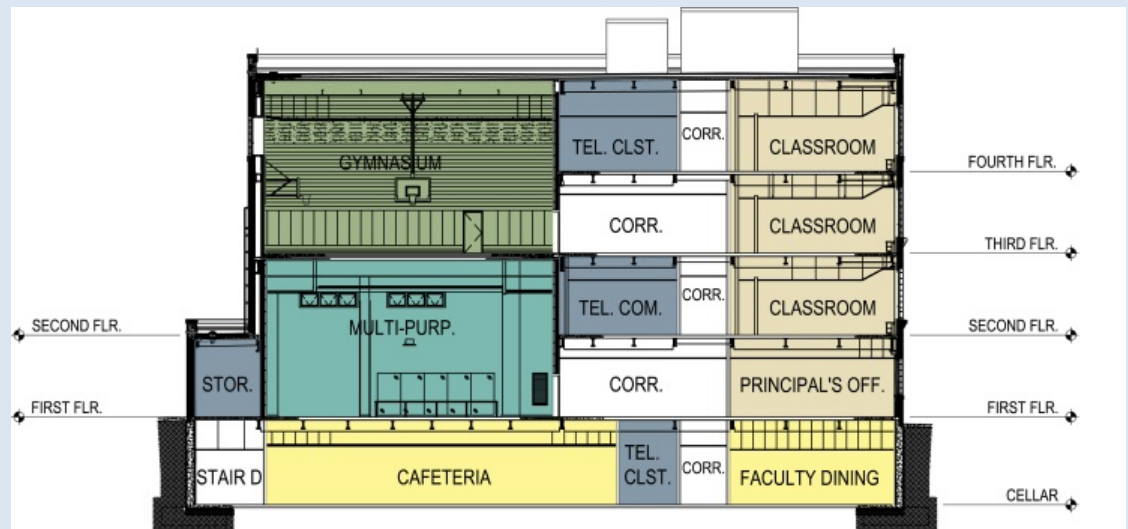
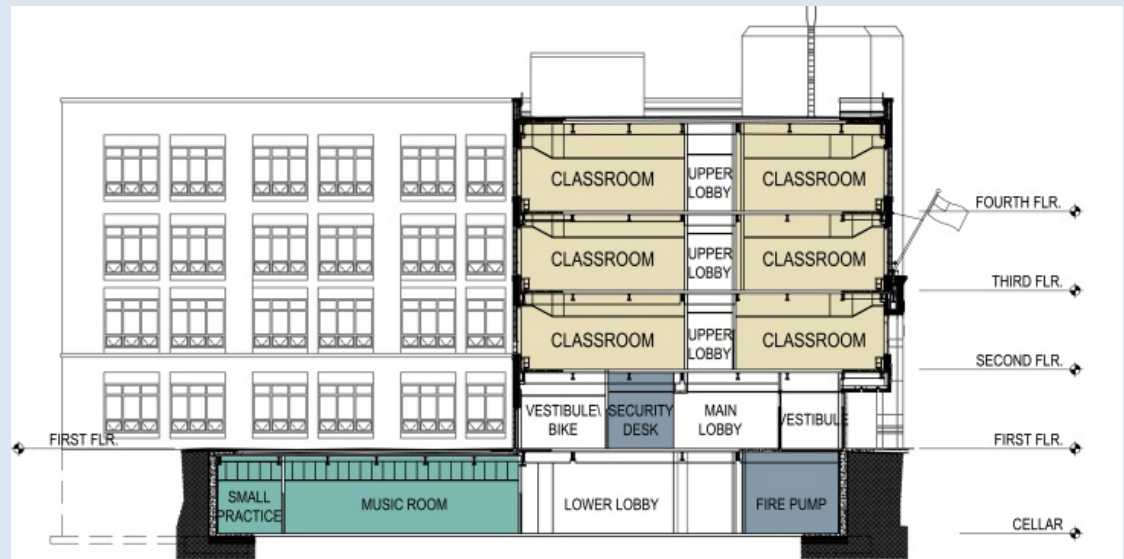
- The extra-ordinary site conditions due to the extent of excavation required to remove existing foundations
- The underpinning of the adjacent multi-unit residential property on 4th Avenue, the demolition of the remaining structure on the site
- The problems inherent in designing adjacent to an existing subway tunnel
- The proper phasing and control required on a busy street corner in a residential neighborhood



Building Sections

Physical Environment:

The cafeteria and kitchen and other supporting services as well as a music room can found in the cellar. Upper floors are occupied by classrooms, library, gym and auditorium. Administrative offices are located on the first floor immediately adjacent to the main entrance. Elevated floors are occupied by instructional areas and multi-purpose rooms.



Building Massing

Planning Process:

Working closely with concerned citizens and historic neighborhood groups the project team explored design alternatives that would meet the educational requirements of the program while remaining true to the historic nature of the site.

It was important to develop building massing as it related to the neighborhood context. Extensive study was done on stacking and massing diagrams. Sketch-Up models were produced to study scale, rhythm, and massing of the project within its neighborhood context. The size and rhythm of the surrounding buildings informed the massing and articulation of the new building to allow a very large building to be read as a collection of smaller elements.

Massing Study A



Massing Study B



Massing Study C



Elevation Development and Studies

Planning Process:

Identification of appropriate materials as they relate to the spirit and stature of the former church was carefully studied and a series of hand drawn elevation and detail studies were done.

Sectional quality of the interior spaces was examined to properly position the stained glass window within the new structure.



Elevation Study A



Elevation Study B



Elevation Study C



- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ADMINISTRATION,
LIBRARY,
CAFETERIA
- SERVICE
- CLASSROOM
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- ART AND MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Cellar Level

- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ADMINISTRATION,
LIBRARY,
CAFETERIA
- SERVICE
- CLASSROOM
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- ART AND MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION

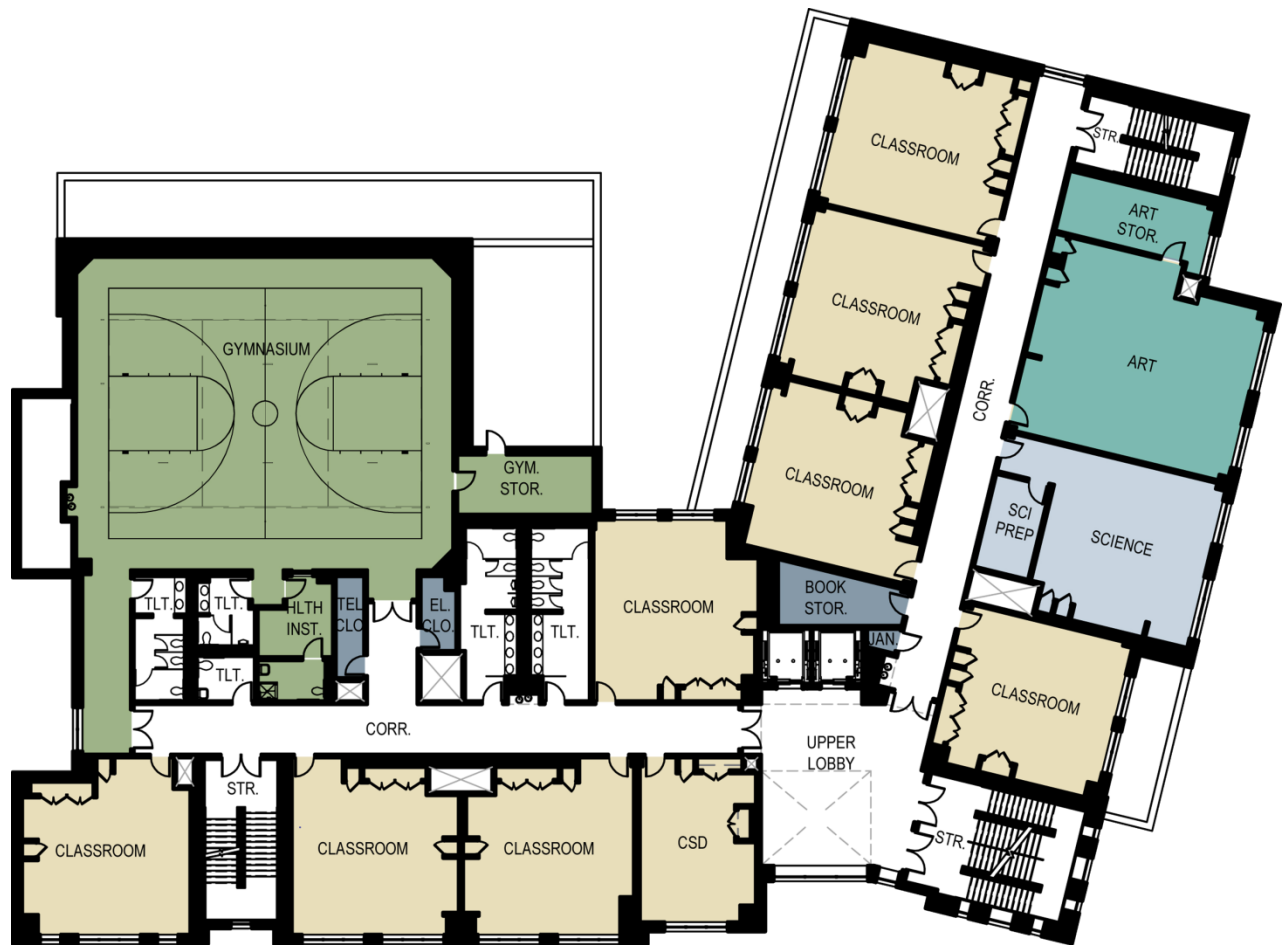


1st Floor



2nd Floor

- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ADMINISTRATION,
LIBRARY,
CAFETERIA
- SERVICE
- CLASSROOM
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- ART AND MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION



3rd Floor

- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ADMINISTRATION,
LIBRARY,
CAFETERIA
- SERVICE
- CLASSROOM
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- ART AND MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION

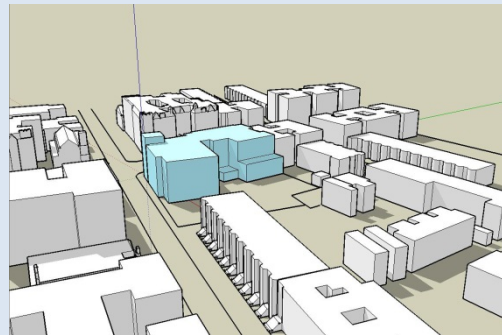


4th Floor

PS/IS 30 Project Details

Project Name	PS/IS 30 Mary White Ovington School
City	Brooklyn
State	New York
District Name	New York City School Construction Authority
Supt/President	E. Bruce Barrett, V. P. Architecture & Engineering
Occupancy Date	2013
Grades Housed	K-8
Capacity(Students)	700
Site Size (acres)	.97
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	98,277
Per Occupant(pupil)	140 sq. ft.
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	2.1 M
Building Construction:	51.2 M including Fixed Equipment
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	53.3 M

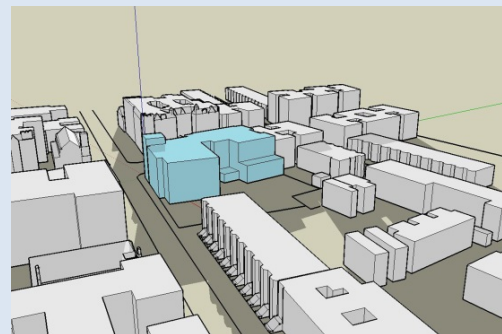
Massing and Sunlight Studies



June 21 - 9:00 AM Back View



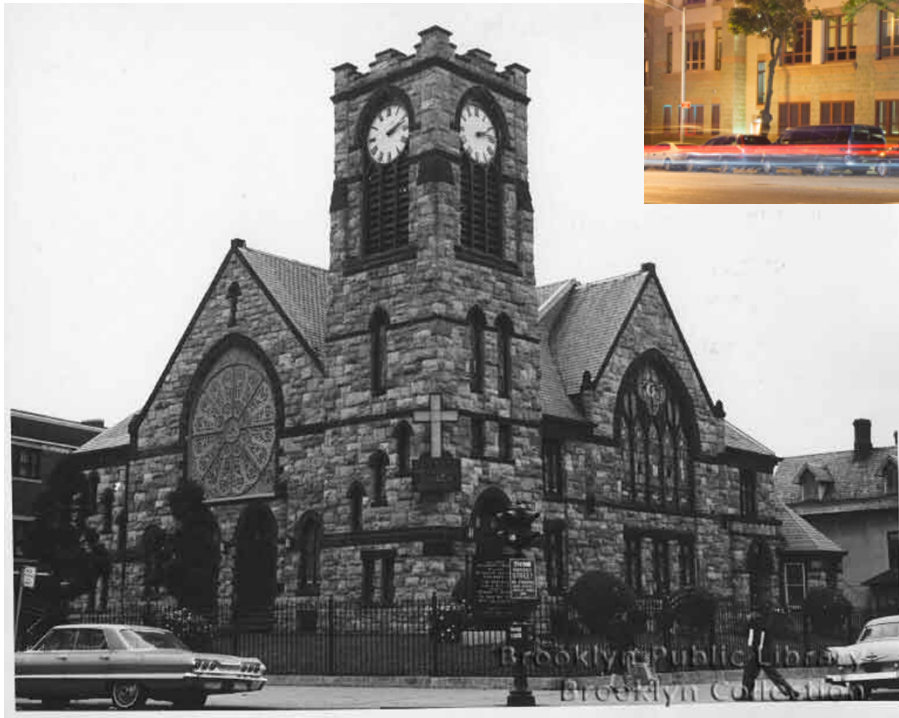
June 21 - 9:00 AM Front View



Dec. 21 - 9:00 AM Back View



Dec. 21 - 9:00 AM Front View



The Bay Ridge United Methodist Church

Photo: Brooklyn Public Library Archives



The New PS/IS 30 Mary White Ovington School

Photo: Brett Beyer