



Church, City, Agencies Partner in Transformation

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT — Another ribbon cutting was held last week at a residential building in Bedford-Stuyvesant, this time for a restored historic structure at 547 Madison St., corner of Lewis Avenue, that is part of the Stuyvesant North Historic District.

The restoration has created nine new apartments available for low- and middle-income tenants, according to the owner/developer, Cornerstone Baptist Church, which also coordinated last week's ribbon cutting.

Funding of more than \$1.2 million was provided through a joint partnership of the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) and the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), with additional assistance from the New York Landmarks Conservancy and the federal HOME program.

"547 Madison Street represents a unique opportunity for us and our partners to preserve a beautiful building and at the same time create quality housing for New Yorkers with a broad range of incomes," said HPD Deputy Commissioner Kimberly Hardy at the ribbon cutting.

Known as The Belmont, the building was described Cornerstone Baptist Church as a vacant drug-infested magnet for crime.

It now has nine one- and two-bedroom "bright and modern" apartments, all with new kitchens and bathrooms. Several are already occupied.

And with the \$35,000 contributed by the Landmarks Conservancy, its brownstone entryway, cornice and window ornamentation have all been restored.

Architect Peter Clements, based in Riverdale, spearheaded the facade repairs and the gut renovation and design of the nine units in the 4,240-square-foot, four-story circa 1894 building, which now has a new roof, new plumbing and electrical systems, and new windows, sheetrocking, masonry and flooring.

The contractor was New York Friendly Construction Inc.; William R. Lucas Real Estate Management and Development will manage the building.

"I have a great sense of pride knowing that we were able to salvage this historic building," said Lenue Singletary, chairman of the Cornerstone Baptist Church Support Services Corp.



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