

March 12, 2019

Press Conference Notice:

Gowanus, Red Hook Groups to Call for Saving Historic S.W. Bowne Grain Storehouse

Press Conference Details:

Date: March 13, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: The “bump-out” on the Hamilton Avenue Bridge sidewalk overlooking the Gowanus Canal and the S.W. Bowne Grain Storehouse. It’s the southwest corner of the bridge on the side facing off toward the harbor. *See accompanying map and image on second page of this document.

For more: gowanuslandmarkingcoalition@gmail.com

BROOKLYN - Members of the Gowanus Landmarking Coalition, PortSide New York, and community members in Red Hook and Gowanus will hold a press conference opposing demolition of the historic S.W. Bowne Grain Storehouse along the Gowanus Canal, which dates to 1886 ([see this link for more](#) on the building’s long history - including the fire the FDNY determined was intentionally set in the building in summer of 2018).

Many questions wreathe the site surrounding the building. The site is currently zoned for manufacturing and it is not clear what the owner intends to build on the site. Nor is it clear why demolition of one historic building is necessary on such a large site. It is also not clear who started the 2018 fire; the investigation remains ongoing.

The building was deemed eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2011, and the Society for Industrial Archaeology formally requested that the building be landmarked by the city’s Landmarks Preservation Commission a decade ago in 2009. Speakers at the press conference will highlight examples of adaptive reuse along the [endangered historic Brooklyn waterfront](#) that could serve as models for a repurposed Bowne Storehouse. It is still possible to retain an example of the community’s maritime heritage and activate it with zoning-appropriate, water-dependent m-zone and maritime uses.

As Council Member Carlos Menchaca [noted through a spokesperson yesterday in an article in Brooklyn](#) regarding the Storehouse owner’s push to demolish:

“Something is off here and we are going to contact the FDNY and DOB to understand what’s happening on their end. Our commitment to preserving the warehouse has not wavered.”

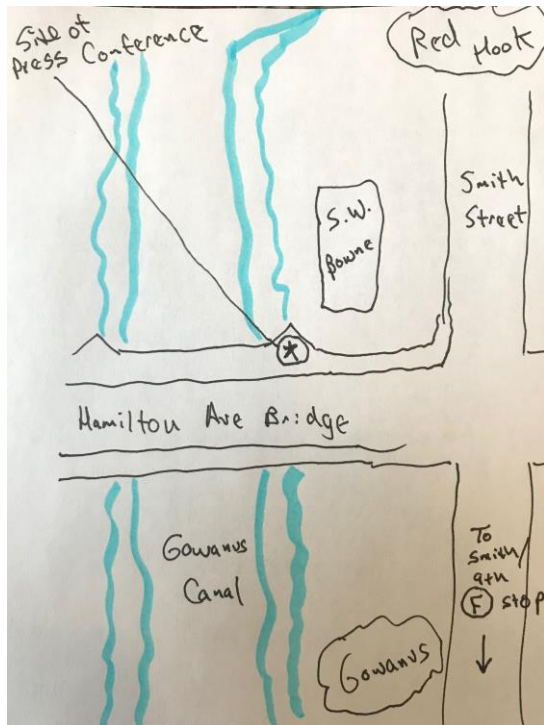
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Location of Press Conference Site:



Map of directions to Press Conference Site:



More requested landmarks along the Gowanus Canal:

<https://ny.curbed.com/2018/5/31/17411810/gowanus-brooklyn-historic-preservation-rezoning-photo-essay>