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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**St. Philip’s Protestant Episcopal Church in Harlem to Participate in City-Wide Open House**

Harlem, NY, 7/1/22

On July 23rd St. Philip’s Protestant Episcopal Church, New York City's first African-American Episcopalian parish, on West 134th Street in Harlem will participate in The New York Landmarks Conservancy’s *Sacred Sites Open House* weekend.

The congregation began at Trinity Church, in lower Manhattan in 1818. Its move to the present location in Harlem reflects the residential patterns of New York City's African-American population. The current building is the congregation’s fourth home. This landmark building was built in 1911 to the designs of Vertner W. Tandy and George W. Foster, Jr., among the first African-Americans to practice architecture in the United States. St. Philip’s has an innovative floor plan, facilitating circulation for a liturgy which emphasized processions. Unlike the conventional façade of a center aisle church, St. Philip’s has no central entrance doorway. Instead, the principal entrance doors are at the two side aisles. Processions down the center of the church, originating at the narthex, are not interrupted by latecomers, who are able to enter at the side aisles.

The building’s facade incorporates 14th-century English Gothic elements in contrasting orange Roman brick and cast stone, and these materials are carried into the sanctuary interior, as well, with elegantly austere orange brick walls and stained- pine roof trusses, and a simple peaked ceiling over the chancel. In addition to Open House tours and a jazz concert, the church will host a symposium celebrating the ground-breaking design of the church

St. Philip’s Protestant Episcopal Church will be one of dozens of religious institutions throughout New York State participating in the *Open House* weekend July 23rd and 24th.

Since 1986 The New York Landmarks Conservancy’s *Sacred Sites* program has supported 828 religious institutions throughout the state which have received over $14.8 million in matching grants. *Sacred Sites* is the country’s oldest and largest statewide grant program to help landmark religious properties. More than 240 New York City congregations have received $5.5 million of that grant total. In 1996, St. Philip’s Protestant Episcopal Church received a matching grant from the *Sacred Sites* program for a conditions survey, and in 2011, the church received a grant towards parapet restoration.

For additional information on the *Sacred Sites Open House Weekend*, contact the New York Landmarks Conservancy at 212-995-5260 x. 309 or sacredsites@nylandmarks.org

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