



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE PEPSI COLA SIGN**

July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Pepsi Cola Sign at 4-09 47th Road in Long Island City, Queens

On April 19, 1988, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Pepsi Cola Sign and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 2). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with provisions of law. Two people testified against designation, one from the Society for the Architecture of the City and Queens Deputy Borough President. A third speaker testified neither for nor against the sign. The owner's attorney requested a continuance. The public hearing was continued on July 12, 1988. One speaker, from the Queensborough Preservation League, testified in favor of designation. The Chair noted opposition from Queens Borough President's office. A representative of Lord, Day, & Lord requested that the record be kept open; the record was left open for one month.

On October 8, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Pepsi Cola Sign and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. III—Borough of Queens Group, B). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the law. The owner spoke in opposition to designation. Ten people spoke in favor of designation, including State Senator Tony Avella, The Queens Borough Historian, and representatives from the Queens Preservation Council, the Historic District Council, the Municipal Art Society, the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance, and the New York Landmarks Conservancy. A representative of the Society for the Architecture of the City spoke in opposition to designation. The Commission also received written submissions expressing support for

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair

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designation from individuals associated with Aquinas Society and the Society for Commercial Archaeology and from one individual who opposed designation.

One of the best known features of the New York City waterfront, the Pepsi-Cola Sign has become an iconic piece of the urban landscape, representing commercial advertising and American industry. The Pepsi-Cola Sign was constructed in 1940 and erected on the roof of the Pepsi-Cola bottling facility in Long Island City. At the time of its construction, the Pepsi-Cola Sign was the longest electric sign in New York State. Situated on the edge of the East River, the sign was clearly visible from Manhattan's East Side and the recently completed FDR. The sign's design closely reflects the company's 1939 trademark logo with red neon tubing incorporated around the edges of the letters. The 50-foot painted Pepsi bottle was probably replaced in the 1970s with an updated bottle featuring the company's contemporary design.

In 1993, the 53-year-old sign was rebuilt due to significant deterioration. Artkraft Strauss Sign Corporation, a company that produced some of the most memorable Times Square spectaculars of the 20th century, oversaw the work, and the sign was restored in a manner that was in keeping with the design, colors, and details of the original sign. In 2003, Pepsi sold their facility to the Queens West Development Corporation. The Pepsi-Cola bottling facility was demolished and the sign was temporarily relocated. Today, the sign stands within feet of its original location inside Gantry Plaza State Park. Changes to the zoning code, in the latter half of the 20th century and early 21st century, have contributed to a reduction in the number of large illuminated signs, which once crowned the factories and warehouses of many of Long Island City's most prominent companies.

The Pepsi-Cola Sign remains one of the most conspicuous features of New York's waterfront and serves as a reminder of Long Island City's industrial past. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE PARK SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION II
July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Park Slope Historic District Extension II in Brooklyn.

The Park Slope Historic District Extension II includes 292 buildings located adjacent to the northern part of the Park Slope Historic District, which was designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1973. The first Park Slope Historic district Extension, located on the south and east sides of the original historic district, took place in 2012 and includes about 613 buildings. A map of the extension II has been provided for your reference.

On October 28, 2013, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Park Slope Historic District Extension II (Item No. 1). The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Eighteen spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, City Councilmembers Brad Lander and Steven Levin, and State Assemblymember Joan Millman, as well as representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Park Slope Civic Council, the Real Estate Board of New York, and the Historic Districts Council. One person testified in opposition. The commission also received 21 letters and 84 signed petitions in favor of designation.

The two most important factors in the growth of Park Slope were transportation improvements and the development of Prospect Park. These transportation improvements included new links between Park Slope and the ferries along Brooklyn's waterfront. Construction began on Prospect Park in 1866 and the park opened to the public in 1871, although it was not yet complete. Wide-scale development, consisting mainly of masonry row houses, started in the 1860s close to Flatbush Avenue, which was an early transportation artery through the area. In the 1870s and early 1880s, mansions were built on Prospect Park West, 8th Avenue and Plaza Street (later replaced by

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair



apartment houses) and additional row houses for less affluent people built along the side streets. In addition to row houses, the Park Slope Historic District Extension II includes a number of carriage houses or garages, a clubhouse, several apartment houses, and three churches, one of which includes a school, convent, parish hall, and rectory.

The buildings in the Park Slope Historic District Extension II were built in many architectural styles that were popular from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries, such as Italianate and its variants, French Second Empire and Anglo-Italianate, Neo-Grec, Queen Anne, Renaissance Revival, Romanesque Revival, Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, and Medieval Revival.

After the Second World War, the Park Slope neighborhood began experiencing the deterioration of its building stock, abandonment of buildings, and intensifying social problems, including rising unemployment and crime rates, as did many other neighborhoods in New York City at that time. However, in the 1960s and 70s Park Slope began to attract people who were looking for affordable housing and larger living spaces. This trend continued in the 1980s and though present.

Today, the Park Slope neighborhood, including all three Park Slope historic districts, remains one of Brooklyn's most architecturally distinguished areas, retaining some of the borough's most beautiful and well-preserved residential streets, featuring a broad array of outstanding residential, institutional and ecclesiastical architecture. The neighborhood retains its cohesiveness due to the tree-lined streets, consistent scale, predominantly residential character, and its architectural integrity. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PARISH HOUSE AND RECTORY
July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of St Michael's Episcopal Church, Parish House and Rectory, at 201, 225 and 227 West 99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan.

On May 13, 1980, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Parish House and Rectory and the related Landmark Site (LP-1136) (Item No. 8). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provision of law. The attorney for the church and the chairperson of Manhattan Community Board 7 asked for the hearing to be continued. The Commission received a letter in favor of designation from the Historic Buildings Committee of the American Institute of Architects. On July 8, 1980, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Parish House and Rectory and related Landmark Site (Item No. 1). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provision of law. The attorney for the church asked for a continuance and the record was kept open for 90 days. There was no other testimony at that time.

On March 18, 2008, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of St. Michael's Church, Parish House and Rectory and the related Landmark Site (LP-2281) (Item No. 3). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provision of law. The Rector of the Church, the Reverend Canon George W. Brandt, Jr. spoke at the hearing but did not take a position. Six people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of the Historic Districts Council, Landmark West!, New York Landmarks Conservancy, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, West 89th Street Block Association and Women's City Club of New York. In addition, the Commission received a written resolution from Community Board 7 and 11 letters in support of designation.



On November 12, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on Backlog Initiative items in the Borough of Manhattan, including St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Parish House and Rectory and the related Landmark Site (Manhattan B Group 1, D). The hearing was duly advertised in accordance with the provision of law. The Reverend Katharine Flexer, Rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church and Jean B. Terepka, church archivist, spoke in favor of designating only the church. The Commission received a letter from the Episcopal Diocese of New York, supporting the designation of the church but not the rectory or parish house. Nine people spoke in favor of the designation of all three buildings including Councilmember Mark Levine, representatives of Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer, the Historic Districts Council, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, Landmark West!, Save Harlem Now! and the Victorian Society New York. A tenth person spoke of his connection to the church but did not voice his opinion. Manhattan Community Board 7 resubmitted its testimony from 2008 in support of designation of the complex. In addition, the Commission received 20 e-mails and three letters, including one from the Municipal Art Society, in favor of designating the complex.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Parish House and Rectory form one of the finest ecclesiastical complexes in Manhattan. All three buildings are executed primarily in rough-faced limestone and designed in the Romanesque Revival style combined with other stylistic motifs that create a singularly eclectic composition. St. Michael's Episcopal Church was organized in 1807 by several parishioners of Trinity Church to serve wealthy downtown residents who had built summer houses in the Bloomingdale section of Manhattan. By the late 1800s, the population of the Upper West Side of Manhattan had greatly increased as a result of transportation improvements and the real estate speculation that followed. St. Michael's replaced its second, Gothic style wood church with the present and much larger church in 1890-91 designed by Robert W. Gibson a noted architect of Episcopal churches. The complex massing of the church incorporates various ecclesiastical elements. The parish house, designed by F. Charles Merry in 1896 and completed in 1901, is reminiscent of a mid-19th century picturesque villa with its asymmetrical massing and Palladian windows. The more austere designed rectory by Gibson (1912-13) shares elements in common with the church and parish house and is an integral part of the complex.

All three buildings are remarkably intact and form beautiful complex with significant presence in the Upper West Side. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE AHLES HOUSE
July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of The John William and Lydia Ann Bell Ahles House at 39-24–39-26 213th Street, Queens.

On June 23, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Lydia Ann Bell and J. William Ahles House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 2). The hearing was duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. The owner's attorney testified and sent a written submission in opposition to the designation. Eleven speakers testified in favor of the designation including then Council Member Tony Avella, the president and several members of the Bayside Historical Society, Joseph Hellman, co-chair of the CB 11 Landmarks Committee who spoke on behalf of the Queensboro Preservation Council, and representatives of the Auburndale Improvement Association, the Douglaston Preservation Association, Municipal Art Society, and Historic Districts Council. The Commission also received letters of support for the designation from Borough President Helen Marshall, State Senator Frank Padovan, State Assembly Member Ann-Margaret Carrozza, the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance, Friends of Oakland Lake & Ravine, Inc., Rego-Forest Preservation Council, and the Queens Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

On October 8, 2015 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on Backlog Initiative items in the Borough of Queens, including the Lydia Ann Bell and J. William Ahles House and the related Landmark Site (Item III - Borough of Queens Group, H). A representative of the owner spoke in opposition to the designation. Eight speakers testified in favor of the designation of the Ahles House, including State Senator Tony Avella, Queens Borough Historian Jack Eichenbaum, and representatives of Council Member Paul Vallone, the Historic Districts Council, Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance and Queens Preservation Council. The Chair read into the record a letter from Council Member Paul Vallone and Assembly Member Edward Braunstein in support of the designation. The Commission has also received one email and three letters of support for the designation including letters from the Aquinas Honor Society of the Immaculate Conception Catholic

Academy, the President of the Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance, and one individual.

In March 2016, in a meeting with senior Commission staff, the owner again expressed his opposition to the designation and submitted materials in support of his position, including a letter from a neighbor opposing designation written in 2009. He submitted another letter and additional materials in opposition to the designation on April 11, 2016.

The house was constructed around 1873 by farmer Robert M. Bell for his daughter Lydia and her husband John William Ahles, a prominent grain merchant and officer of the New York Produce Exchange. This impressive Second Empire style residence, updated in 1924 with Colonial Revival style alterations, is a rare reminder of 19th-century Bayside when it was a village of suburban villas and substantial farmhouses. Now located on 213th Street in Bayside, the Ahles House was built only a few years after railroad service reached Bayside in 1866 and residential subdivisions began to replace farms. It is the only remaining example of the substantial Second Empire buildings erected in Bayside during the 1870s and 1880s. It retains the cubic form and dormered mansard roof typical of the Second Empire style as well as details such as the molded cornice and hexagonal slate shingles. Very few 19th century houses survive in Bayside, making the Ahles house a rare example of the period.

The house was moved from its original site to its present location in 1924 to allow Christy Street (now 213th Street) to be cut through to 41st Avenue. It was then that architect Lewis E. Welsh, a prominent exponent of the Colonial Revival style who specialized in the revitalization of Victorian houses, simplified the building's façade by removing the original wrap-around porches, bay window, scroll brackets, replaced the original clapboards with stucco, and installed new features including porches and moldings that were more in keeping with the Arts-and-Crafts-infused Colonial Revival aesthetic of the 1920s. The overall effect of Welsh's alterations was to create a building that still retained the box-like cubic massing, mansard roof, and cornice of its Second Empire origins and at the same time was a fine example of Colonial-Revival/ Arts and Crafts-inspired 1920s design.

The relocation and alterations to the Ahles House are significant in their own right because they reflect the historical context of the transformation of Bayside to a commuter suburb in the early 20th century. Today this house is thought to be one of the oldest surviving in Bayside and is considered a significant reminder of the neighborhood's past. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.

Council Member Mark Levine

District 7, Northern Manhattan

**Testimony before Landmarks Preservation Commission
on St. Michael's Church and the D.G. Yuengling Co. Brewery
Complex**

November 12, 2015

My name is Mark Levine, and I am the Councilmember for the 7th District in Northern Manhattan. I want to speak about two properties in my district under consideration today.

First is St. Michael's church on Amsterdam Ave. and 100th St. The church's distinctive campus includes three buildings designed by architect Robert Gibson: the church sanctuary, built in 1890, the Parish House built in 1896, and the Rectory, built in 1912. The three distinct structures, though built over a quarter century, maintain a stylistic cohesion, with an unusual combination of Romanesque forms in rock-faced limestone blocks. The Church includes one-of-a-kind Tiffany Glass windows, and features a Rudolph von Beckerath organ with remarkable acoustics. This campus would be one of very few landmarks on a large swath of the West Side which otherwise was mostly demolished during the City's urban renewal project in the mid-20th century. Citing these and other factors, Community Board 7 has voted to recommend landmark status for the buildings.

St. Michael's has raised concerns that the Parish House and Rectory need modernizing, including creating disability access. I accept these as important priorities, but believe they can still be accomplished under landmarking status. **For these reasons I am recommending that the Commission grant landmark status to the St. Michael's campus.**

Next I wish to speak on the properties located between West 126th and 128th Streets, between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues -- referred to by the LPC as the "D.G. Yuengling Co. Brewery Complex".

The Yuengling Complex once enjoyed a prominent architectural and economic presence in the area, but nearly a century of abandonment, collapse, demolition, and planned and unplanned alterations have dramatically reduced the site's connection to its original use as a brewery. Many of the most recognizable historic elements on Amsterdam Ave. and in other parts of the complex are not in fact historic--they are recreations completed in the last several years.

In the recent rezoning of West Harlem, the Yuengling complex was the only area in the neighborhood zoned for major commercial development. The site has the potential to be home to thousands of jobs, creating much-needed employment opportunities for local residents, and an increased customer base for local businesses. The site's owner has articulated and demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the historic character of the complex as a central feature of its identity. Indeed this historic character is a significant draw for potential tenants.

But the landmarking limbo the complex has been in for more than two decades has prevented the kinds of upgrades that would be needed to secure major commercial leaseholders.

To address this, the Landmarks Committee of Community Board 9 voted unanimously to de-calendar the Yuengling complex, which led to a full Community Board resolution to do the same. That resolution passed by an overwhelming vote of 26-3. A variety of elected officials, community leaders, and local organizations have issued similar calls for de-calendarng.

For all these reasons, I believe that after nearly 25 years of consideration, it is time for the LPC to de-calendar the D.G. Yuengling Co. Brewery Complex.

I greatly appreciate your consideration on both of the matters I have discussed today.

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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.

COUNCIL MEMBER, 36TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CHAIR
SMALL BUSINESS

COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE & LABOR
FINANCE
HEALTH
HOUSING
PUBLIC SAFETY

October 15, 2015

Tremaine Wright, Chairperson
Brooklyn Community Board 3
1360 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Re: Comunilife Supportive Housing Residence
At Woodhull Hospital (Corner of Throop and Park Avenues, Brooklyn, NY)

Dear Ms. Wright:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Comunilife's proposal to build 89 affordable studio apartments for members of the local community and for Brooklyn residents who are patients at Woodhull Hospital. This housing will be developed at the corner of Park and Throop Avenues, on the grounds of Woodhull Hospital.

Affordable housing is a key priority for my office, particularly as it relates to the needs of my constituents in the 36th Council District. My office has witnessed, first-hand, how New York City's rising housing costs have continued to place strains on the residents of our borough and, more specifically, on my constituents. The addition of affordable and safe apartments will certainly help to ease this economic, social and health strain on our community. The provision of housing, such as that proposed by Comunilife, has been proven to contribute to the long- and short-term health and well-being of individuals and families.

The building will include 36 studio apartments for community residents whose incomes are 60% of the area median income. There will be 53 studios for individuals living with mental illness who have been referred by the Woodhull Department of Psychiatry. These individuals will continue to benefit from outpatient medical and mental health services provided by Woodhull Medical Center and other community based organizations.

Founded in 1989, Comunilife, Inc. has been providing crucial services to my Council District, both through the provision of affordable and supportive housing and through the delivery of services to homeless Brooklyn residents living with HIV/AIDS and mental illness. Comunilife serves the needs of more than 3,000 low-income and vulnerable New Yorkers. Currently, they own or manage more than 1,600 supported transitional or permanent apartments as well as Life is Precious™ suicide prevention program out of their offices at 113 Throop Avenue.

For all of these reasons, I support the development of Comunilife's Residence at Woodhull.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cornegy, Jr." with a stylized flourish.

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Council Member, 36th District – Brooklyn

cc: Henry Butler, District Manager



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THE COUNCIL
 OF
 THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PAUL A. VALLONE
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 19TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

CHAIR
 SUB-COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CENTERS

COMMITTEES
 AGING
 FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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 SMALL BUSINESS
 VETERANS
 WATERFRONTS

July 7, 2016

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
 NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
 Municipal Building
 1 Centre Street, 9th Floor, North
 New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairwoman Srinivasan:

I am writing in regard to the proposal to landmark the Lydia Ann Bell & J. William Ahles House, located at 39-24 to 39-26 213th Street in Bayside, Queens.

The Ahles House is a Second Empire Style residence, having been constructed around 1873 by Robert M. Bell for his daughter, Lydia, and her husband, J. William Ahles. At the time, Mr. Ahles was a prominent grain merchant and officer of the New York Produce Exchange and Queens County Agricultural Society. Upon the death of Mr. Ahles, the New York Times cited the building as "one of the showplaces" of the town of Bayside. The Ahles House retains the cubic form, hexagonal shingles, dormered mansard roof, dormers, and molded cornices that have become associated with such homes. Additionally, this home is one of the oldest surviving homes in Bayside, and is one of the last of the Bell Family's houses.

As you may know, the Bell Family was one of the most influential families in Bayside's history. Bell Boulevard, is a reminder of the importance of the Bells, with the road serving as the cultural and commercial center of Bayside. Your approval of the application to landmark the Ahles House would further serve to educate future generations about the significance of the Bell Family to the Bayside area.

I support the effort to landmark the Ahles House and hope that you will take this letter under advisement during your decision-making process. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PAUL A. VALLONE
 COUNCIL MEMBER





THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
STEVEN MATTEO

MINORITY LEADER

COUNCIL MEMBER • 50th DISTRICT
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December 2, 2015

The Honorable Meenakshi Srinivasan
Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor, North
New York, NY 10004

RE: Various Calendar Issues – Backlog Initiative

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

I am writing to express my opinion about various locations that are the calendar that are located within my district. I first want to start off by commending your staff for their initiative to get my opinion on these additional calendar items.

As you know, I feel very strongly that any entity that is up to the challenge of maintaining their facility and does not wish to have their property landmarked should not be burdened or hamstrung with undue red tape and added costs. It is for this reason that each of the calendared properties that are located in my district call for an individualized approach.

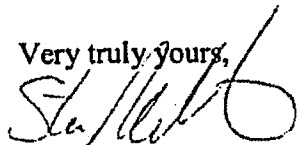
For the purpose of this letter the three properties I would like to focus on are:

1. Fountain Family Graveyard (formerly First Baptist Church of Staten Island) LP-0355/Block 828, Lot 100 located at Richmond Road and Clove Road. The owner of this parcel is indeed financially independent, spending their own funds on upkeep and maintenance. It is for this reason that I am in favor of removing this location from the calendar for landmarking consideration.
2. Vanderbilt Mausoleum and Cemetery (Moravian Cemetery) LP-1208/Block 934, Lot 250 located at Richmond Road and Altamont Street. Now that it is on the calendar for landmarking consideration with owner support I have no objection to its being granted such status.
3. Crocheron House, LP-2504/Block 2117, Lots 8, 10, 11, 12 located at 47 Travis Avenue. There are some things that have to be cleared up about this location. The Jacob Crocheron House, which was moved to Historic Richmond Town from 84 Woodrow Road, Annadale, is not the subject property and was never calendared. The location that is currently on the backlog calendar listed as the Crocheron House was located at 47 Travis Avenue in the Travis section of Staten Island and was demolished in 1975. It is for this reason that I am requesting that the location listed at the Crocheron House, located in Travis, be removed from the calendar.

(please see reverse)

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to discuss this matter. I can be emailed directly at smatteo@council.nyc.gov or have the appropriate member of your staff contact my office at 718-980-1017 to discuss further.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Matteo', written over the closing 'yours,'.

Steven Matteo

Minority Leader, 50th Council District

SM/lis

July 7, 2016

The Council
The City of New York
Land Use Division
250 Broadway, Room 1602
New York, NY 10007

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the board of trustees of the Vanderbilt Cemetery Association, I write regarding the proposed designation of the Vanderbilt Mausoleum in New Dorp, Staten Island, as a New York City Landmark.

As long as the Vanderbilt family and Vanderbilt descendants continue to have the right to burial in the Mausoleum and in related cemetery areas (approximately 16 acres), we are in favor of the designation.

Furthermore, we recommend that the designation, if awarded, include the stone entrance arch to the mausoleum, the driveway, and esplanade in front of the tomb. All are important components of the overall original design.

The Vanderbilt Mausoleum was commissioned by William Henry Vanderbilt (1821-1885), principal heir of "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877), the founder of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, builder of the first two Grand Central Terminals and originator of the nation's first laws of interstate commerce.

The mausoleum, which was built between 1881 and 1889, is a true relic of America's Gilded Age. It represents an extraordinary collaboration by the period's foremost architect Richard Morris Hunt and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. It is the largest private tomb in the country and contains the remains of six generations of Vanderbilts, a family whose name is uniquely associated with New York's civic, social, and transportation history.

With the clear understanding that the Vanderbilt families continue to reserve their long-held right to burial in the mausoleum and on the property, we respectfully submit that this structure, its entrance arch, driveway and esplanade merit designation as a New York City Landmark.

Very truly yours,

Frank J. Prial, Jr.
Trustee

**STATEMENT OF
JOHN JURENKO, VICE PRESIDENT
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND PLANNING**

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS

July 11th, 2016

Good morning, my name is John Jurenko and I am the Vice President for Intergovernmental Relations and Planning for NYC Health + Hospitals. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of a proposed lease agreement between HHC and Comunilife, Inc. for a parcel of land located on the campus of NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull at 179 Throop Avenue. I am joined here today by representatives of NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull and Comunilife, Inc.

Comunilife, Inc. is a community based health and housing services provider that serves more than 3,000 New Yorkers each year. They own or manage more than 1,600 units of supported transitional and permanent housing, operate a full-service mental health clinic which provides 23,000+ outpatient visits annually and also operates the “Life is Precious”, a suicide prevention program for girls.

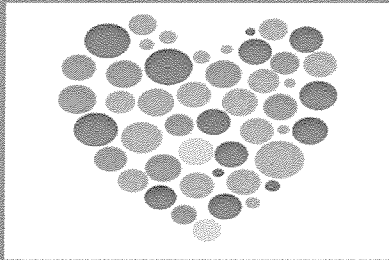
As some of you may know, NYC Health + Hospitals has engaged in several collaborations with housing providers and developers to create affordable, supportive and sustainable housing on parcels of land that is no longer needed for healthcare services. This proposed lease would allow NYC Health + Hospitals and Comunilife, Inc. to proceed with the construction of a six-story building containing 89 units of housing.

Thirty-five of the units would be for low-income individuals and 54 units would be for low-income individuals living with mental illness who are appropriate for independent living in the community.

Comunilife will provide on-site case management services as well as 24-hour building security. They will be responsible for the costs associated with the construction of the building and the development and operation of the housing program. The annual rent will be \$75,000 per year.

NYC Health + Hospitals Board of Directors conducted a public hearing in Brooklyn on January 7th, 2016 with respect to the proposed leasing. HHC's Board of Directors subsequently authorized the leasing of the property on February 25th, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed lease. I will now turn to Comunilife for their presentation.



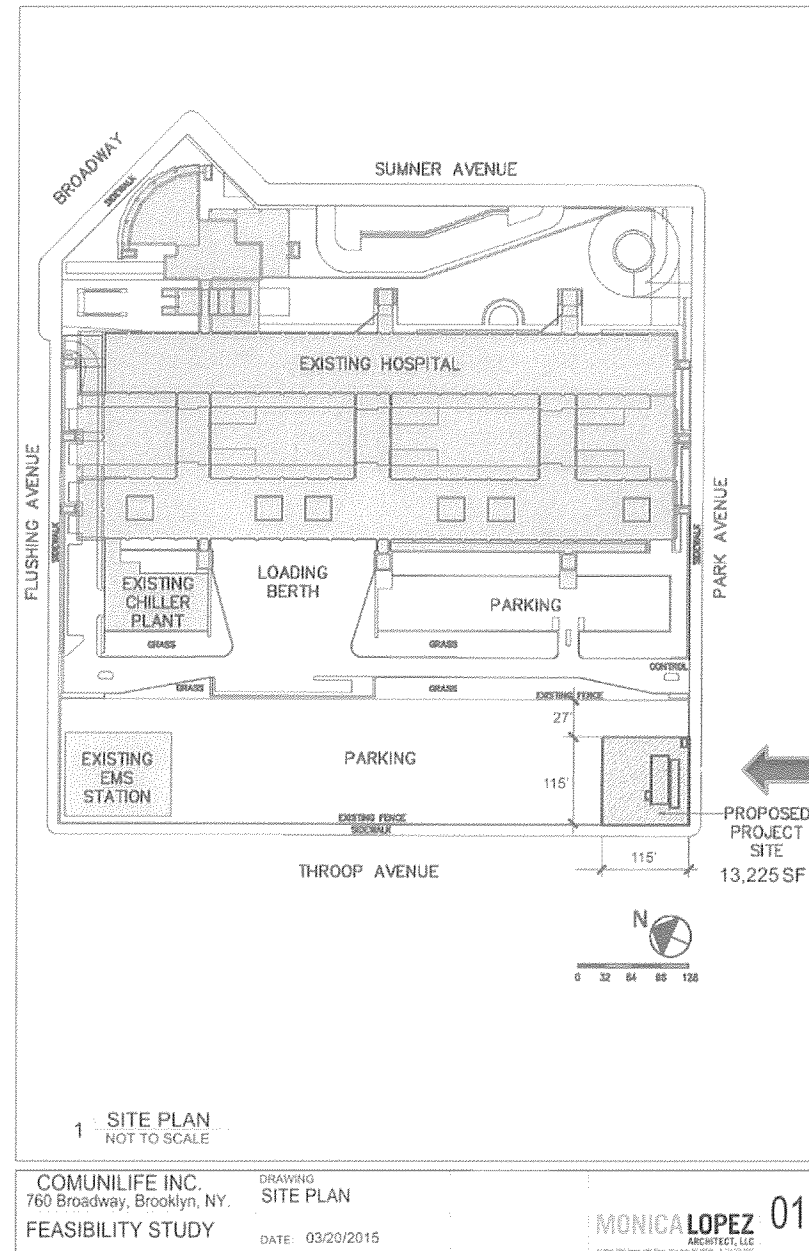
COMUNILIFE WOODHULL PROJECT
179 THROOP AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY

PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL - LANDMARKS
PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
SUBCOMMITTEE

JULY 11, 2016

Healthy Living in Community

Woodhull Site -
(located at
corner of
Throop and
Park Avenues)



Woodhull Site – Proposed Street View



MONICA LOPEZ
ARCHITECT, LLC

Comunilife, Inc

WOODHULL
COMMUNITY RESIDENCE

Woodhull Site – Proposed Development for Permanent Housing

- 6-story building with cellar level
- Proposed Unit Mix
 - 89 Studio Apartments
 - 35 studios for individuals who are low income (i.e., 60% Area Median Income or less).
 - 60% AMI for an individual in 2016 is \$38,100
 - 60% AMI affordable rents are \$952 for studio units
 - 54 studios for people living with mental illness, referred by Woodhull Department of Psychiatry
- Each residential unit has its own kitchenette and bathroom

Woodhull Site – Proposed Development (cont.)

- ❑ Landscaping along Park and Throop Avenues and landscaped plaza in rear yard
- ❑ On-site laundry
- ❑ Community room
- ❑ Computer room
- ❑ Bike storage
- ❑ On-site social services

Proposed Social Services

- 24-hour doorman security
- Case management services provided, on-site
- Care coordination

Woodhull Site - Proposal

- Comunilife, Inc. to serve as project developer and sponsor, as well as on-site social service provider.
- 35 units will be marketed and leased to individuals with qualifying incomes at-or-below 60% of Area Median Income.
- Comunilife will work with Woodhull hospital to obtain referrals of patients admitted to psychiatric inpatient units who can live independently, in permanent housing, with appropriate social service support.
- This site can serve as a source of housing for such individuals upon initial lease-up and as additional vacancies present themselves.

Anticipated Development Timeline

- Commence project design – Spring 2015
- Applied for State financing – December 2015
- NY State Award Received – June 2016
- Estimated closing on Construction Financing – Fall 2016
- Estimated Construction Start– Late Fall 2016
- Estimated Construction Completion – Late Fall 2018

Agency History – Comunilife, Inc.

- Established in 1989.
- Comunilife has grown into one of NYC's best-respected community-based health and housing service providers.
- Each year, the needs of more than 3,000 low-income and vulnerable New Yorkers are served.
- Owns/manages 1,641 units of supported transitional and permanent housing.
- Operates a full-service mental health clinic in the South Bronx, which provides 23,000+ outpatient visits, annually.
- Operates “Life is Precious”, a suicide prevention program for girls in Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn.

Comunilife Real Estate Portfolio

Supportive Housing Permanent Housing Portfolio

- 780 Prospect Avenue (Bronx) – “Prospect”
 - 60 studio units (35 supportive units, 25 low income individuals)
- 750 Rockaway Avenue (Brooklyn) – “Dona Rosita II”
 - 60 studio units
- 315 East 148th Street (Bronx) – “Dona Rosita I”
 - 40 studio units
- 1041 East 179th Street (Bronx) – “El Rio”
 - 65 studio units (39 supportive units, 36 low income individuals)

Multi-family Affordable Permanent Housing Portfolio

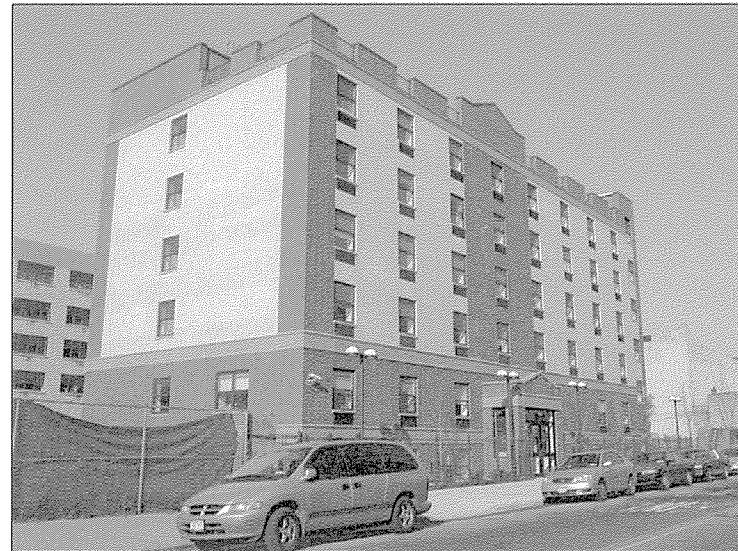
- 2111 Hughes Avenue (Bronx)
 - 72 units
- 950 Jennings Avenue (Bronx)
 - 84 units
- 2130 Crotona Avenue (Bronx)
 - 86 units

Comunilife Real Estate Portfolio



Dona Rosita I
315 East 148th Street
(Bronx)

Dona Rosita II
750 Rockaway Avenue
(Brooklyn)



Comunilife Real Estate Portfolio



Prospect Residence
780 Prospect Avenue
(Bronx)

El Rio
1041 East 179th Street
(Bronx)





TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF WILLIAM H. SCHOFIELD HOUSE
July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the William H Schofield House at 65 Schofield Street, Borough of The Bronx Tax Map Block 5628, Lot 146.

On January 19, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the William H. Schofield House and related landmark site (Item No. 1). The hearing was duly advertised according to the provisions of law. Representatives of the Historic Districts Council and Community Board 10 spoke in favor of the designation. There were no speakers in opposition to the proposed designation. The Commission received six letters requesting that the Commission refrain from designating the building at that time and continue further outreach to the property owner.

On October 8, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on the Backlog Initiative items, including the William H. Schofield House, (Item No. I - Borough of the Bronx Group, D). The hearing was duly advertised according to the provisions of law. At that hearing six people testified in favor of the proposed designation of the William H. Schofield House, including: the owners, representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Historic Districts Council, the Municipal Art Society of New York, The Society for the Architecture of the City, and The Victorian Society of New York. The Commission also received three letters of support for the designation including letters from the Bronx Borough Historian, the Guide's Association of New York and the Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance. On April 12, 2016 the Commission voted to designate 65 Schofield Street as a New York City Landmark.



This transitional Italianate style farmhouse was constructed around 1860 as part of the estate of William Schofield, among the first families to settle on City Island in 1826. The residence is a fine example of the Italianate style of architecture that dominated American house design from 1850 to 1880. The house is located at the corner of Schofield Street and William Avenue in this section of City Island. City Island was first established as an English settlement in 1654, when the English crown granted Thomas Pell ownership of the island and parts of Westchester County.

The house represents a period of progress on the island when it began to transition to a suburban residential community, concurrently developing from farming to industries unique to the island such as oyster fishing and ship building, which played an important role during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The William H. Schofield House at 65 Schofield Street is significant as a rare surviving transitional Italianate farmhouse on City Island, and for its association with the prominent Schofield family known for their connection to City Island's oyster industry. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE CHAPEL AND THE FORT HAMILTON PARKWAY ENTRANCE OF
GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY**

July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Chapel and the Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance of the Greenwood Cemetery.

On February 10, 1981 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Greenwood Cemetery (Item No. 11). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At that hearing, a Green-Wood Cemetery trustee testified in favor of designation of Green-Wood Cemetery. In addition, five people supported designation, including representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; the Morse Telegraph Club, and local residents. In addition, the Commission received letters in favor of designation from Congressman Leo Zeferetti and the Steuben Society. On May 19, 1981, a second hearing was held on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Greenwood Cemetery (Item No. 1). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At that hearing three Green-Wood Cemetery trustees, a cemetery plot owner, a former Executive Vice President of Green-Wood Cemetery and an attorney testified in opposition to the designation. In addition, the Commission received three letters in opposition to the designation from the president of Green-Wood Cemetery, the Green-Wood Cemetery Executive Vice President, and the president of the New York State Association of Cemeteries. Three people testified in favor of the designation, including the Park Slope Civic Council, the Municipal Art Society, and the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. On August 11, 1981, a third hearing was held on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Green-Wood Cemetery (Item No. 1). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At the hearing, two people testified in opposition to the designation at the hearing, including a Green-Wood Cemetery trustee and a cemetery plot owner.

On October 8, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on the Backlog Initiative Items in the Borough of Brooklyn, including the Greenwood Cemetery (Item II-Borough of Brooklyn, Group E). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At the public hearing, there were two speakers in opposition to the designation of Green-Wood Cemetery including the president of Green-Wood Cemetery and an honorary trustee of Green-Wood. The Commission also received four letters in opposition to the designation from Councilmember Carlos Menchaca (opposed to entire cemetery, but would support certain individual buildings), the New York State Association of Cemeteries, and two Green-Wood Cemetery trustees. At that public hearing one person from the Guides Association of New York testified in favor of designating the entire site and three people testified in favor of designating buildings, but not the entire site, including representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Historic District Council, and the Municipal Art Society. The

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Commission also received letters of support from Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance and two individuals.

On April 12, 2016 the Commission voted to designate selected buildings and features of the Green-Wood Cemetery lot, specifically the Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance and the Cemetery Chapel, as New York City Landmarks.

The Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance (1876-77) and the Green-Wood Cemetery Chapel (1911-13) are significant Green-Wood Cemetery buildings that are excellent examples of Gothic Revival design that complement the picturesque character of this historic rural cemetery. Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn was established in 1838, the fourth rural cemetery in the United States, with a landscape design influenced by the "English Rural" garden movement as advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing during the first half of the 19th century.

The Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance, designed by Richard Mitchell Upjohn, consists of a Visitors' Lounge, a Residence, and associated decorative iron gates, fencing, brownstone gateposts and low walls. They are excellent examples of the High Victorian Gothic style that became popular during the post-Civil War years. As a leading proponent of the style, the architect Richard Mitchell Upjohn, like his father Richard Upjohn, was well-known for his skill adapting the Gothic Revival style to various building types. The brownstone buildings feature asymmetrical massing, prominent patterned steep roofs, arched windows; stained glass; a tall tower-like section; iron cresting; and carved and applied ornamentation. As such, the Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance with its decorative gate structures, presents an elegant and inviting entry along the southeastern boundary of the cemetery.

The Green-Wood Cemetery Chapel, designed by the distinguished architectural firm of Warren & Wetmore, is an excellent example of a late-Gothic-inspired building with a Beaux-Arts form and massing. In addition to its pavilion-like presence within the picturesque cemetery, it is notable for its modern structural use of reinforced concrete. The building's most prominent feature is the cluster of towers: a tall central tower, surrounded by four smaller similarly designed turrets, all with octagonal ogee-shaped domes. Clad in limestone, the building is embellished with delicate Gothic-Revival carved ornament and a collection of arched stained-glass windows with decorative stone tracery.

The Green-Wood Cemetery Chapel and the Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance buildings and features have excellent integrity. Today, these structures remain significant examples of Gothic Revival style buildings harmoniously incorporated into a picturesque cemetery landscape.

Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE VAN SICKLEN HOUSE**

July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Van Sicklen House, located at 27 Gravesend Neck Road in Brooklyn.

On March 2, 2004, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Van Sicklen House and the related Landmark Site (Item No. 2). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. The owner at the time spoke in opposition to the designation. Six speakers, including representatives of the Gravesend Historical Society, Bay Ridge Historical Society, Historic Districts Council, and New York Landmarks Conservancy testified in favor of the designation. Council Member Domenic Recchia did not take a position on the designation [noting the owner's wish to sell and get the best price for the property versus the concerns of the many constituents in favor of designation]. The Commission received letters and e-mails in support of the designation including a letters from Assembly Members William Colton and Adele Cohen, the Municipal Art Society, Brooklyn Community Board 15, and the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.

On October 8, 2015 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on Backlog Initiative Items in the Borough of Brooklyn, including the Lady Moody-Van Sicklen House (Item II, Borough of Brooklyn Group, G). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Eight speakers testified in favor of the designation, including Council Member Mark Treyger, representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Historic Districts Council, the Municipal Arts Society, the Gravesend Historical Society, and the New York City Tour Guides Association and two individuals. No one spoke in opposition to the designation. The Commission received 28 letters and emails in support of the designation, including statements from Brooklyn Community Board 15, the Coney Island History Project, and the Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance. Subsequent to the public hearing the owner submitted a letter in opposition to the designation.



The Van Sicklen House is among the oldest surviving Dutch-American houses in Brooklyn and the only known extant 18th century house largely of stone construction in the borough. Located in the historic town center of Gravesend, the house is linked to the earliest colonial history of Brooklyn in that it occupies part of the lot of the home of Lady Deborah Moody who founded Gravesend in the 1640s. It appears to be one of the earliest surviving houses in Brooklyn and New York City. In 1702, farmer and property owner, Ferdinandus Van Sicklen, Jr., acquired the land around this house. Members of the Van Sicklen family built the house in sections beginning in the early 18th century. The Van Sicklens were farmers and prominent members of the Gravesend community serving in a variety of municipal and institutional posts.

In the mid-18th century, when the rear additions were added, the roof was re-centered with a gently sloping pitch and wide overhanging spring eaves, creating a profile typical of mid-to-late-18th century Dutch-American houses in this region. Other 18th century features which make the Van Sicklen House an excellent example of the Long Island-Central New Jersey Dutch-American house type include its one-and-a-half-story form (achieved through the use of Dutch anchor beam construction), its low proportions, rectangular plan, and the location of its door and window openings on the western half of the façade and gabled end walls.

The house was occupied by the Van Sicklens and later by the family of Cornelia Van Sicklen Hicks and her husband, Thomas Hicks, until the early 1900s. In 1904, the house was acquired by realtor William E. Platt, who with his wife Isabelle, made extensive alterations, including the addition of dormer windows, incorporating decorative elements inspired by the Colonial Revival Style and the prevalent Arts and Crafts aesthetic. The Platts were responsible for popularizing the longstanding idea that this had been the ancient home of Lady Deborah. The house remains on its original site and is located across the street from the designated Gravesend-Van Sicklen Cemetery.

The structure is one of the few remaining buildings that represent the early history of Gravesend, a significant New York colonial community. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF 57 SULLIVAN STREET HOUSE
July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the 57 Sullivan Street House, 57 Sullivan Street, Manhattan. Built: 1816-17; architect undetermined; altered c. 1841-42; architect undetermined

On June 23, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 57 Sullivan Street House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 7). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One of the two property owners testified in opposition to the designation. Four people spoke in favor of the designation, including representatives of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, the Society for the Architecture of the City, the Historic Districts Council, and the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

On November 5, 2015 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on Backlog Initiative items in the Borough of Manhattan, including the 57 Sullivan Street House and the related Landmark Site (Item I – Borough of Manhattan Group A, d). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One of the two property owners testified in opposition to the designation of the 57 Sullivan Street House. Seven speakers testified in favor of the designation including Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Assembly Member Deborah Glick, a representative of City Council Member Corey Johnson, and representatives of the Historic Districts Council, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, and the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Commission also received a copy of a resolution adopted by Manhattan Community Board 2 on October 26, 2015 in support of the designation. The Commission received 175 letters and emails in support of the designation.

Statements about support for the 57 Sullivan Street House during the backlog initiative process reflect specific testimony given or submitted during the hearing or while the record was open. In addition, the Commission received numerous more general communications about the backlog, some of which mentioned the 57 Sullivan Street House specifically or were directed at all items on the backlog. These items were not specifically submitted while the record was open. Due

to the volume and variety of these more general emails they were not tallied for individual buildings.

Located in a portion of the South Village just north of Canal Street developed in the 1810s and 1820s, this building was constructed in 1816-17 as a speculative development property by Carter Frederick Youmans. A three-bay, wood-framed rowhouse, it is a fine example of the Federal style, characterized by its brick-clad front laid in Flemish bond, incised paneled stone lintels, incised entry arch with a keystone and impost blocks, and low stoop. The house was originally two stories high (undoubtedly capped by a gabled attic with dormers) and had a rear two-story kitchen ell. In 1817 it was purchased by mason David Bogert, who occupied the house with his family until 1829. In 1841 it was acquired by Thomas Bray, an Irish-immigrant gardener. Bray had the house extended at the rear and raised to three full stories with brick cladding laid in Flemish bond, similar lintels, and a wooden cornice. The paneled window lintels at the first and second stories are thought to be among the earliest surviving examples in Manhattan. The arched first-story entrance surround with incised panel decorations, imposts, and keystones is also very early and rare.

During Bray's ownership the building was also sub-divided into apartments, which were occupied by members of the Bray family and tenants, primarily tradesmen and craftsmen. By 1875, the basement had been converted to commercial use and was occupied by the Knickerbocker a bar with an African-American proprietor and a multi-racial clientele. The house remained in the ownership of the Bray and Hanify families until 1924 when it was acquired by Anthony and Louisa Emanuelli. Throughout the 20th century, most of the occupants were Italian-immigrant working-class families. A post-1995 restoration of the house included new entry doors at the basement and first story, new windows, and ironwork.

Today the 57 Sullivan Street House survives as a fine example of the Federal style of architecture and a tangible reminder of the rich multi-cultural heritage of the South Village. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES
REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE VANDERBILT MAUSOLEUM**

July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and Committee Members. My name is Lauren George, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Vanderbilt Mausoleum at in Staten Island.

On September 9, 1980, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Vanderbilt Mausoleum and Cemetery and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 5). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. A representative of the trustees overseeing the property testified in opposition to the proposed designation. A representative of New Dorp Moravian Church also testified in opposition to the proposed designation. Two people spoke in favor of the proposed designation, including a representative of the Preservation League of Staten Island. The Commission also received letters in favor of designation from the Municipal Art Society and the National Association for Olmsted Parks. On November 18, 1980, a second hearing was held on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Vanderbilt Mausoleum and Cemetery and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 4). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. At this hearing, a representative of the trustees overseeing the property testified in opposition to the proposed designation. Two other people testified in opposition to the proposed designation, including a representative of New Dorp Moravian Church. Four people spoke in favor of the proposed designation, including representatives of the Municipal Art Society, Preservation League of Staten Island, and New York Chapter of the Victorian Society in America.

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair



On October 22, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a special public hearing on Backlog Initiative Items in the Borough of Staten Island, including the Vanderbilt Mausoleum and Cemetery (Item II—Borough of Staten Island Group 2, G). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. A representative of the Vanderbilt Cemetery Association testified in favor of the proposed designation. Five other speakers testified in favor of the proposed designation, including representatives of the Historic Districts Council, New York Landmarks Conservancy, and Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America. There were no speakers in opposition to the proposed designation. The Commission also received four letters and emails in support of designation, including letters from Council Member Steven Matteo, the Municipal Art Society, and the Biltmore Company. The Commission received an additional letter from an attorney representing Moravian Cemetery, which stated that the Cemetery was not opposed to designating the Vanderbilt Mausoleum and entrance gate but had reservations about designating additional land surrounding the mausoleum.

The Vanderbilt Mausoleum is an extraordinary monument to America's Gilded Age. Built by the country's wealthiest family of the time and combining the talents of two of America's greatest designers—Richard Morris Hunt and Frederick Law Olmsted—it was hailed as "the most magnificent tomb of any private individual" and "the most costly mausoleum in America" following its 1886 completion. Planned by William H. Vanderbilt, it was completed, following his death, by his son George W. Vanderbilt. William was the son of "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Staten Island native who had amassed America's largest fortune through his steamboat and railroad lines, which played a major role in the development of New York City and State. When he died in 1885, William H. Vanderbilt was the richest person in American history.

The country's most celebrated landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted designed the mausoleum grounds, although most of the original Olmsted plantings have been lost or replaced. One of the earliest collaborations between Hunt and Olmsted, the mausoleum was

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair

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their first joint effort for the Vanderbilt family and led to their subsequent hiring by George W. Vanderbilt for his North Carolina estate, Biltmore (completed 1895), one America's most impressive unions of architecture and landscape design. The designation includes four landscape features: the broad terrace in front of the mausoleum, designed by Hunt and Olmsted; the hillock surrounding the mausoleum, which originally covered its roof; the stone entrance arch and adjoining walls at the plot's entrance; and the winding pathway connecting the entrance arch with the terrace.

Interment within the mausoleum was reserved to those with the Vanderbilt name, including sons, their wives, and unmarried daughters. It houses the remains of Commodore Vanderbilt and his two wives; William H. and Maria Vanderbilt; and four of William and Maria's sons and three of their wives, who are best known today for their spectacular homes designed by outstanding American architects including, along with Biltmore, Marble House (completed 1892) and The Breakers (1895) in Newport, Rhode Island, both designed by Richard Morris Hunt.

Like these houses, the Vanderbilt Mausoleum is an exceptional remnant of the Gilded Age, constructed by Vanderbilt family members at the height of their wealth, power, and prominence, when they were commissioning some of America's finest and most enduring works of architecture. Accordingly, the Landmarks Preservation Commission urges you to affirm the designation. Thank you.

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING
AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY CHAPEL AND
FORT HAMILTON PARKWAY ENTRANCE.**

July 11, 2016

Good morning Chair Koo and members of the committee. My name is Jenny Fernandez from the firm of Cozen O'Connor and I am here to testify on behalf of our client, Green-Wood Cemetery, on the designation of the Chapel and Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

Green-wood Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark, is home to well over half a million internments and includes the graves of some of America's and New York's most prominent residents, making Green-wood a popular tourist destination. Green-wood has become an important repository for historical and artistic collections. Green-wood has been a careful and dedicated steward of its grounds and buildings, including several landmarks, for over 177 years.

Although recognized for its historic and architectural significance, Green-wood remains a very active cemetery, with over 1,200 burials and the installment of 200 new monuments in just one year. Designation of the entire cemetery's grounds posed significant legal and other issues. We are pleased that the Landmarks Preservation Commission determined that individual designation of the Chapel and Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance was the appropriate action, and the Commission has specified those features for which these structures have been deemed significant, and have been designated, in its reports.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION
65 SCHOFIELD STREET, 65 Schofield Street, Bronx
LP-2395
Landmark Site: Bronx Block 5628, Lot I46

An Italianate style farmhouse designed by an unknown architect and built in 1860.

City Island is an unusual area of New York City that truly stands out as a small maritime community that has been embraced but not engulfed by the urban sprawl of the larger city. As noted in the AIA Guide to New York City, “on the streets that run perpendicular to the fishbone spine of City Island Avenue are more than a handful of distinguished older houses...65 Schofield Street, serene and peeling, seems a candidate for a Hopper painting: austere, venerable, self-confident”.

This building is a remarkable example of Italianate farmhouse design with Greek Revival elements, characterized by a square plan, tall windows, flat roof with an overhanging cornice and elaborate brackets. The building's most striking feature is the one-story porch that runs across the width of the building. Fantastically, the main body of the house is still clad in its original wood clapboard, which serves to evoke a sense of architectural antiquity in a way much more common to small New England towns than The Bronx. Aside from its architectural integrity, research has uncovered direct connections between this building and the Pell and Schofield families, prominent families who were deeply involved with the development of City Island. This building is, frankly, an obvious landmark on all counts and should be protected in order to maintain its integrity as a visible, prominent link to City Island's past.

We believe strongly that under the oversight of the Landmarks Commission, this building will prosper. HDC urges the Landmarks Commission to designate this handsome building as a landmark and work with these owners to bring this structure back to life.



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Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY, Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn
LP-1233

Landmark Site: Brooklyn Block 902, Lot I

A picturesque style cemetery established in 1838.

Green-Wood Cemetery is a National Historic Landmark encompassing 478 acres, with over 500,000 graves, including those of many notable historic figures. It was the third – and remains the largest – rural cemetery established in the United States, and the first rural cemetery in New York City.

Founded in 1838, Green-Wood was designed by David Bates Douglass and described as a tour de force of the picturesque landscape. Carefully sited with dramatic views of the city and harbor, a viewshed it retains today, Green-Wood is also one of the most extensive, and among the most intact, landscapes created on the principles of Andrew Jackson Downing in New York City. The cemetery is a veritable architectural encyclopedia for its amalgam of mortuary architecture, buildings and statuary. Among the styles represented are Classical, Gothic and Romanesque. The distinctive, brownstone Gothic Revival entrance, designed by Richard Upjohn, was designated an Individual Landmark in 1966.

The properties within the cemetery that are owned by Green-Wood, including the Chapel, designed by noted architects Warren and Wetmore as a scaled-down version of Christopher Wren's Tom Tower at Christ Church, Oxford, as well as the gatehouses and other ancillary structures, would be welcome additions to New York City's roster of protected landmarks. Ensuring the sensitive maintenance of the structures that set a standard for architecture in urban parks would be an important and worthwhile endeavor.



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION
LADY MOODY-VAN SICKLEN HOUSE, 27 Gravesend Neck Road, Brooklyn
LP-II30
Landmark Site: Brooklyn Block 7123, Lot 64

A Dutch-American farmhouse built in the early-18th century, expanded in the mid-18th century and altered in 1905.

The Lady Moody-Van Sicklen House is a rare surviving example of Brooklyn's agricultural past that deserves recognition as a New York City landmark. This property is part of Kings County's agricultural history, a history that was a crucial component to the success of New York City. Today there are less than a dozen examples of these farmhouses remaining. Located at 27 Gravesend Neck Road, the Lady Moody-Van Sicklen House is not only "a rare surviving example of an eighteenth-century Dutch-American farmhouse" it is "the only known extant 18th century farmhouse of stone construction in Brooklyn." (LPC 2004)

Built partly of rough stone, the Lady Moody-Van Sicklen House stands on its original siting on ground that was originally part of the northwest square of Gravesend. In addition to the stone walls, the house features a gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves and an end chimney typical of 18th century Dutch-American farmhouse construction.

The house is believed to have belonged to Lady Deborah Moody, an English expatriate who helped develop Gravesend and was one of the first women to be granted land in the new world. Though it is questioned whether Lady Moody did indeed own the house, the land, the house, and the story around it are all integral parts of Gravesend's history and identity; as much a part of that identity as the original four-square plan of the colonial town of Gravesend.

The Lady Moody-Van Sicklen house is one of two extant houses original to this colonial plan. The four-square plan, consisting of 16 acres per square, is unique in New York City. This plan is still prominently visible within the modern street grid.



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel (212) 614-9107 fax (212) 614-9127 email hdc@hdc.org

Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION

57 SULLIVAN STREET, Manhattan

LP - 2344

Landmark Site: Manhattan Block 489, Lot 2

A Federal style wood-framed rowhouse attributed to mason David G. Bogert and E. McCreery constructed c. 1816-17.

57 Sullivan Street was built in 1816-17, making it one of the oldest buildings in Manhattan. Standing just north of Broome Street, it is a three-bay, wood-framed rowhouse which, in the words of the Landmarks Preservation Commission's statement of significance, "was designed in the Federal style, characterized by a brick-clad front façade laid in Flemish bond, incised paneled brownstone lintels, an incised entry arch with a keystone and impost blocks, and a stoop." The fact that it is wood-framed makes it a rare example of the Federal period.

Originally two stories, by 1858 the building was raised to three, terminating in a wooden cornice. Its present owners acquired the house in 1995, and embarked on a restoration, including a new front door, windows, ironwork and shutters. It is possible that they were influenced in their choices by 203 Prince Street, an 1834 Federal house a couple of blocks away, designated an individual landmark in 1974.

57 Sullivan was calendared for designation in 1970. It was also one of 13 Federal houses proposed for designation in 2002 by preservation organizations, but was not heard until 2009. It enjoyed strong support from local officials, neighbors and preservation groups. Any alterations that might have prevented its designation at that time were certainly consistent with those on other extant buildings of the time, as 203 Prince Street shows. While the building's owners have been careful stewards of the property, development pressure and a great deal of construction in the area threaten the structure if left undesignated. We ask the Commission to designate 57 Sullivan Street as an Individual Landmark, thus preserving this house in perpetuity.



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July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PARISH HOUSE AND RECTORY, 227 West 99th Street,
Manhattan

LP - 1136 & LP - 2281

Landmark Site: Manhattan Block 1871, Lot 24 and 29

A Romanesque Revival and neo-Flemish style church complex designed by Robert W. Gibson and built c. 1890-97.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church was designed by architect Robert W. Gibson and dedicated in 1891. The congregation has been worshipping on this site since 1807, outgrowing its previous two church structures before construction began for the present structure. Gibson was known in his time for his use of architectural forms from a variety of traditions, and this complex is a fine example of his work. In fact, and quite interestingly, the St. Michael's Church complex and the Music Hall at Sailors' Snug Harbor in Staten Island, both part of the LPC's Backlog95 initiative, are the only New York City works by Gibson that are not protected by the Landmarks Law.

The church, parish house and rectory were all designed by Gibson over roughly 25 years. The church was constructed of rock-faced Indiana limestone in the Northern Italian Renaissance or Romanesque-Byzantine style. Its grandest feature is its square clock and bell tower at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue, which is visible throughout the surrounding neighborhood and is capped by two levels of open arcades and a pyramidal roof. The church also features Spanish tile roofs and magnificent stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany. While not part of this proposed designation, the interior features a great amount of original decorative elements by Tiffany, in addition to the windows.

Set back from West 99th Street is the Parish House, completed in 1896-97 by Gibson, along with architect Charles Merry. Its asymmetrical massing includes a large gable and two smaller gabled dormers, and its façade features arched openings and window lintels, as well as the same rough cut Indiana limestone. The final piece of the complex was the Rectory, completed in 1912-13 just west of the Parish House, but not set back from the street. It was also designed by Gibson in the same style, but with rectangular window openings and strong cornice lines that emphasize its horizontality. The complex is remarkably intact and striking in its materials and monumental scale. HDC finds it to be entirely worthy of landmark status to ensure that it remains not only a spiritual anchor on the Upper West Side, but an architectural one, as well.

204-05 43rd Avenue (Lawrence Blvd.)
Bayside, NY 11361-2617
July 11, 2016

New York City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses
250 Broadway, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10007

To the Subcommittee:

My name is Henry Euler. Today, I come to speak in support of landmarking the Ahles House, located at 39-24/26 213th Street, in Bayside, Queens. As a life time member and current Recording Secretary of the Bayside Historical Society, as a lifetime member of the Queens Historical Society, and as a member of the Queens Preservation Council, I feel it is important to preserve our historical past for the benefit of today's and tomorrow's generations.

I have submitted testimony many times about this site to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). The Ahles House was constructed circa 1873 in the Second Empire style of architecture. Robert M. Bell of the founding Bell Family of Bayside had the house constructed as a wedding present for his daughter Lydia and her future husband John William Ahles. The home retains its cubic form and dormered mansard roof typical of this architectural style and was enhanced by such details as the molded cornice and hexagonal slate shingles. The house itself is situated on land that had been part of the Lawrence family farm. The property was purchased by Mr. Bell a few years after his marriage to Catherine Lawrence. The Ahles family lived in the house built on the property for almost 70 years.

Because of the link to the Bell and Lawrence families, two of the most prominent of Bayside's founding families, this house is believed to be the oldest standing home in Bayside. It has a unique architectural style when compared to other homes in Bayside. But even more importantly, is the historical aspect of this particular site.

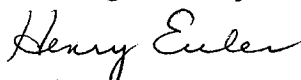
As a life long resident of Bayside, I have witnessed first hand the desecration and destruction of many historic buildings in my community, including the Bell homes on Bell Blvd. and 38th Avenue, the Bell Estate on 43rd Avenue and Corporal Kennedy Street, the Wettingfeld Farm on Bell Blvd. near Rocky Hill Road, the Tad Dorgan house on 209th Street near 43rd Avenue and the many homes taken for the Clearview Expressway in 1960, including the Jacob Rupert mansion that was located on 42nd Avenue and 207th Street. Slowly but surely, all of our precious history is disappearing.

That is why I urge this Subcommittee, the Land Use Committee and the full City Council to landmark the Ahles House before it meets the same fate as many of our other historical Bayside homes.

I also endorse the landmarking of the Pepsi Cola sign being considered today and the entire Bowne Street Community Church in Flushing, which should be coming before the City Council in the near future. I also hope that the LPC and the City Council will soon be considering the landmarking of the proposed Broadway-Flushing Historic District. Queens County has many historical buildings and districts that merit landmark designation and preservationists will continue to advocate for landmark status of these sites.

Thank you for letting me testify today at this hearing.

Henry Euler





HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION

LYDIA ANN BELL AND J. WILLIAMS AHLES HOUSE, 39-26 213th Street, Queens


LP-234I

Landmark Site: Queens Block 6236, Lot 18

A Second Empire Style home designed by an unknown architect and built in 1873, with alterations in 1924 by Lewis E. Walsh.

This home is the oldest known structure in Bayside and the last survivor of many homes once belonging to the Bell family, who were influential in the development of early Bayside. The Bells were responsible for planning and naming roads, bringing running water, and freely donating much land for railroad, church and school developments. Abraham Bell and Company was involved in cotton shipping and was instrumental in transporting immigrants from Ireland escaping the Great Famine in the 1840s. The Bell landholdings originally comprised 246 acres in what is now Bayside, and this house is the only extant former residence of the family.

The house was stuccoed and the porch was removed in the 1920s after it was moved to make room for street improvements and development. However, these historic alterations do not detract or obscure its characteristic Second Empire style. In fact, it is the only surviving example of that style in the area. The last surviving Bell residence other than this one, located at 38-08 Bell Boulevard, was demolished in 1971, despite preservation efforts. Unfortunately, that house was replaced with a funeral home, and is now used as a drab suburban office building. We urge the Commission to avoid a similar fate for the Lydia Ann Bell and J. Williams Ahles House, a structure significant on many fronts: for its connection to Bayside's history, its singular architectural contribution, and its age.



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July 11, 2016

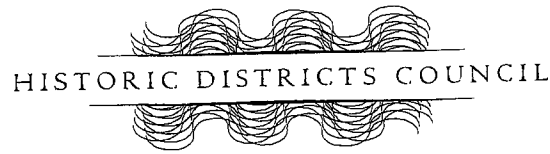
ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION
PEPSI COLA SIGN, 4600 Fifth Avenue, Queens
LP-1653
Landmark Site: Queens Block 21, Lot 1 (in part)

A display sign designed by an unknown architect who worked with Artkraft Signs and built in 1936.

The Pepsi Cola Sign has illuminated the East River waterfront since 1936. While not a traditional “landmark” since it is neither of a high style nor affixed to a high-style building, the Pepsi Cola sign does add a special character to the all-but-developed Long Island City. Tastes and definitions of landmarks continue to change, as does New York. Public perception of the quotidian sights of our city, like signage, can evolve quickly once something that has always been there, suddenly, is not.

HDC cites the lost Eagle Clothing and Kentile signs as two examples of character-defining, albeit non-traditional, beloved facets of the industrial Gowanus. The dismantling and erasure of these signs’ presence in the neighborhood was lamented by neighborhood residents and beyond, signifying anxiety that those companies’ industries are defunct, and change is certainly coming to this Brooklyn enclave.

As a nod to the departed industry which was once the dominating presence in Long Island City, the Pepsi Cola sign was preserved, long after its host building was demolished. HDC would like to see this sign preserved in perpetuity, as its presence is preferred there, as opposed to losing it. In 21st Century New York, vestiges like this remind us that we manufactured things in this city before we built condos. Understanding the intricacies of regulating commercial signage, HDC would further recommend that the Commission investigate additional preservation protections, such as an easement or some other form of legal contract to help ensure this landmark’s continued presence.



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

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Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION

VANDERBILT MAUSOLEUM & CEMETERY, Richmond Road & Altamont Street, Staten Island
LP - I208

Landmark Site: Staten Island Block 934, Lot 250

A Romanesque Revival style mausoleum with Gothic and Romano-Byzantine style influences built c. 1884-87 by architect Richard Morris Hunt, with landscape features designed by Hunt, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, and landscape engineer John J.R. Cross.

Cornelius Vanderbilt and his son William Henry Vanderbilt donated roughly 12 acres (which was subsequently greatly expanded) for Moravian Cemetery. The Vanderbilts, who remain one of Staten Island's – and the country's – most famous families, set aside a private section of the cemetery and commissioned this grand mausoleum, which was constructed in 1881-89. The mausoleum was designed by Richard Morris Hunt, a noted architect and the first American to study at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. As such, Hunt was one of the key champions of the Beaux-Arts style in this country. His extant works are rare in New York City, but include the Fifth Avenue façade of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Vanderbilts' choice of Hunt is fitting, as they also hired him to design several of the family's mansions along the eastern seaboard.

Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, the stone mausoleum abounds in round arches, intricate carvings and is capped by two small domes. A grand stone arch with an inset iron gate, referencing the arches of the mausoleum beyond, marks the entrance to the Vanderbilt's private cemetery lot. The surrounding landscape was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, considered to be the father of landscape architecture in America, who often collaborated with Hunt. In fact, their collaboration on the mausoleum and its grounds would inspire the Vanderbilts to hire the pair to design the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, perhaps the most famous landmark associated with the Vanderbilt family in this country. This magnificent mausoleum is significant on many levels, and is wholly deserving of landmark status to ensure its protection into the future.



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Statement of the Historic Districts Council
City Council Subcommittee Designation Hearing
July 11, 2016

ITEM PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN
Park Slope Historic District Extension II
LP-2558

HDC has been working with neighborhood advocates since 2000 on the goal of extending the Park Slope Historic District to encompass more of the neighborhood's historic buildings. We used this as a case study for our Boundaries Project in 2004, have spoken on several panels about this effort – often with members of the Landmarks Commission – and have gone to numerous meetings, both large and small, over the course of the last 13 years. This seems like a long time, but when one considers that community residents have been actively campaigning to extend the historic district since 1970 – three years before the district was actually designated – this is a mere drop in the bucket.

HDC is in strong support of this proposal, although we would prefer that the designation encompasses more of what the community had requested. As the recently revealed plans for the expansion of Methodist Hospital onto unprotected properties on Eighth Avenue demonstrate, the community is willing to accept new developments in the area but in the long run, the neighborhood would greatly benefit from the oversight and guidance which liberal historic district boundaries afford. Drawing boundaries too conservatively only leads to future regrets and, at best, corrective actions to properly square the corners of a meritorious district.

Statement for the New York City Council's Land Use/Landmarks Subcommittee
Regarding the Park Slope Historic District Extension 2
July 11, 2016

Submitted by David Alquist, Park Slope Civic Council Historic District Committee

We of the Park Slope Civic Council's Historic District Committee respectfully urge the Council to approve the second extension of Park Slope's Historic District as originally designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Park Slope's residents have for decades wanted our woefully small historic district to be extended. The Civic Council organized and advocated tirelessly, for years, on behalf of this extension: marshaling the process through door-to-door outreach, through research in historic building records, through public meetings and hearings. We followed the letter and the spirit of the mandated process in bringing this historic district extension into reality.

We urge the Landmarks Subcommittee to respect the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and to adopt this extension as designated by them. You should not second-guess the work of those dedicated public servants, charged with preserving the heritage of New York's unparalleled built environment for future generations.

One example in our second extension is 184 Sterling Place, not far from Flatbush Avenue. This Neoclassical building was constructed in 1912 by owner Peter Winchester Rouss to designs by architect Gustave Erda. Rouss, a prosperous dry goods merchant with a business in Manhattan, had previously built an enormous mansion, now demolished, on Prospect Park West at Garfield Place. The huge, arched central bay of his Sterling Place building, together with its extra-deep footprint, expresses its original use as a carriage house or "automobile stable". One imagines Rouss, in his Prospect Park West mansion, telephoning his chauffeur in Sterling Place to bring round the horseless carriage to his mansion. This beautiful building speaks volumes about the history of Park Slope and New York City.

We have a responsibility, one the Landmarks Subcommittee should share, to respect and to preserve our architectural heritage for the future. We urge this subcommittee to support the designation of Park Slope Historic District Extension 2 as originally designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

JULY 11, 2013

FILE # LU 0421-2016

TESTIMONY OF JOHN J. CASSON BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USE - Landmarks, Park Slope Historic District Extension II, Brooklyn (20165543 HKK (N 160299 HKK))

Good afternoon.

My name is John Casson and I am here to testify that I am emphatically in favor of the second extension of the Park Slope Historic District.

My wife and I purchased our brownstone in Park Slope a half century ago. Ours is truly a historic home for its first owner was C. C. Martin, Chief Engineer of Prospect Park who was responsible for implementing Olmstead and Vaux's design for the Park. He later was hired by John and Washington Roebling and became their most senior engineer involved in all phases of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1883, when the bridge opened, he was appointed Superintendent and Chief Engineer of the bridge and he purchased the home where my wife and I live.

When we came to Park Slope, it was a neighborhood in decline that many of its residents were fleeing. Crime, including muggings and burglaries, was rampant, crack houses were commonplace and buildings were being abandoned. Nonetheless, in the late 1960s and 1970 young couples who rejected the idea of living and raising a family in the suburbs recognized Park Slope's great potential. Despite its problems, there still were many attractive blocks lined with trees and handsome historic homes. Park Slope offered many other advantages. The houses were large, but their prices and real estate taxes were low. It was a short inexpensive subway ride to Manhattan where many of us worked. Within walking distance were many shops, Prospect Park, the Central Library, the Brooklyn Museum and Botanic Garden and BAM. Several subway lines connected us to Manhattan's numerous attractions. Perhaps the most enticing incentive at the time was the people who were moving here. They were friendly, welcoming, helpful people who were reviving the neighborhood. Those of us who moved here decades ago contributed to Park Slope's transformation from an area in decline into the dynamic and economically and socially viable neighborhood that it is today.

Those of us who are still here want to see the attractive appearance of our beloved neighborhood protected by an expanded Historic District.

Based on my experience as a former Trustee of the Park Slope Civic Council and a member of its Historic District Committee, I have helped gather several hundred signatures from residents who support the expansion of our Historic District. Residents who moved here after the initial landmarking in 1973 also recognize why maintaining the appearance of Park Slope is so essential. The historic appearance of our neighborhood is why so many people want to dine, shop and be entertained here. It is why so many domestic and foreign tourists spend time here. It is why so many movies, television shows and commercials are filmed here. It is why so many people continue to move here. A failure to ~~preserve and~~ expand the boundaries of the Park Slope historic district will have an adverse effect on this historic neighborhood's appearance and heritage and, as a result, our City's economy.

Our house became landmarked when the Park Slope Historic District was created in 1973. Since then, we have seen how our home and the other buildings on our block have benefited from being landmarked. We also have seen how a great many blocks have been irreversibly disfigured because they are outside of the boundaries of the Park Slope Historic District. Recently, developers have demolished historic structures on these blocks and erected buildings that are incongruous amid the appearance of this historic neighborhood. Inappropriate renovations have transformed many handsome homes on these blocks into eyesores. As a result of these changes, blocks that the Landmarks Preservation Commission would once have included without reservation in an enlarged Historic District are now being rejected for landmarking by the LPC because there are now too many buildings on these blocks that are incompatible with Park Slope's original historic structures.

Expanding the Park Slope Historic District will assure that the attractive blocks that are in the neighborhood are protected. Please prevent the blocks that you are considering landmarking today from being disfigured by irresponsible developers and renovators and approve this extension of the Park Slope Historic District.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 418 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jordan Most

Address: Sheldon Cober PC

I represent: Owner of house Robert Rubin (418) (House)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lauren George

Address: _____

I represent: LPC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Owen

Address: _____

I represent: LPC Landmarks

Address: 1 Centre

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 421 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN CASSON

Address: 194 Berkeley Place

I represent: Park Slope Historic Dist. Com

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 421 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SMITH LIEF

Address: 97 GANFIELD PLACE BKLYN

I represent: PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

Address: 125 7th AVE BkL 11215

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Bell House Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMON BARKH

Address: _____

I represent: HOC

Address: 232 E 11 St N/1003

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Rep: C/A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/1/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMON BANKA

Address: _____

I represent: HDC

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Vandenberg Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMON BANKA

Address: _____

I represent: HDC

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 57 Sullivan Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMON BANKA

Address: _____

I represent: HDC

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 65 sch 1 A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

Name: Simone Bankoff (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: HDC

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Pack 50 PE EFX Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Simone Bankoff (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: HDC

Address: 232 E 11 St NYC 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. CR 07 M 009 Horse Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Simone Bankoff (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: HDC

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. GREENWOOD Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: STEVEN BANCER (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: HPC

Address: 232 E 11 St NYC 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 4720 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

Name: Gregory Caliste (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: MHC Health + Hospitals / Woodhull

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 4720 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

Name: John Larento (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: MHC Health + Hospitals

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Ahles House

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 418 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/21/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Henry Euler

Address: 20405 43 Ave, Bayside 11361

I represent: Bayside Historical Society

Address: 208 Totten Ave Ft Totten 11359

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 4720 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Rosa Gil

Address: _____

I represent: Communita

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

AWes Hage

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 418 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robert Rubin

Address: 35-36

I represent: Mid Home

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 414 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7/11/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 277 Park Ave.

I represent: Green-wood Cemetery.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 420 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 7-11-16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FRANK PRIAL

Address: 120 Broadway 20th floor

I represent: Vanderbilt Cemetery Association

Address: 95 Rowayton Ave Norwalk CT.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 421 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETER L BRAY

Address: 237 GARFIELD PL. BROOKLYN

I represent: PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

Address: _____