

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE  
THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING  
AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF SCHLEICHER HOUSE, 11-41  
123 STREET, QUEENS**

**December 15, 2009**

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Schleicher House in Queens.

On February 10, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Schleicher House. Ten witnesses spoke in favor of designation, including City Councilman Tony Avella, representatives of the Historic Districts Council, the Landmarks Conservancy, the Municipal Art Society, the Poppenhusen Institute, the Queens Historical Society, and two tenants of the building. On October 20, 2009, the Commission scheduled a vote to designate the building a New York City landmark. At that public meeting, prior to the Commission's vote, the owner spoke in opposition to designation.

The Herman A. and Malvina Schleicher House is located in College Point, in north central Queens. It stands on an unusual circular site that was created c. 1906 when the original 14-acre estate was subdivided into building lots and became part of the surrounding street grid. Morris A. Gescheidt, a German-born painter and architect, was responsible for the building's neo-classical design. Two-and-a-half stories tall, this large red brick house has four visible facades that display elements associated with the Italianate and Second Empire styles, including a mansard roof, segmental arch windows, and quoins.

Though relatively little is known about the Schleicher family, census records indicate that Herman had Prussian parents and was a successful merchant, involved in the sale of dry goods, stationary, and coal. He shared the house with his wife Malvina, four children, and three servants. Following his death in 1866, the building was sold, and at the turn of the century was converted to the 11-room Grand View Hotel.

Divided into apartments in 1923, there are currently seven units in the building. Despite changes, the 1857 Schleicher House has many notable characteristics; not only is it one of the oldest houses in College Point but it is one of the earliest surviving structures in New York City to feature a mansard roof.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

**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: 12/17/09

Name: Jenny Fernandez (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: LPC

Address: 1 Centre St

◆ 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. 1292 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: Dec 17 2009

Name: ROBERT CUNNIFFE (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 3340 157th FLUSHING

I represent: I am the owner NY 11354

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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