

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

May 15, 2012

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE BRINCKERHOFF CEMETERY AT 69-65 182ND STREET, QUEENS AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK

Good morning Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy supports designation of Brinkerhoff Cemetery as an individual landmark.

The Cemetery is the resting place of members of a prominent family from colonial-era Queens and it contributes to our understanding of early New York history. While there are no longer visible grave markers, this history is not lost. Designation could allow for the cemetery to be cleared of overgrown vegetation and for an investigation into the location of buried remains and markers. And it would ensure that the site is protected in perpetuity.

The Conservancy has been working at Prospect Cemetery in Queens for over a decade, and we have seen how a reclaimed cemetery can create a connection between a contemporary community and the history expressed in its physical environment. We should not lose a similar opportunity at the Brinckerhoff Cemetery. The Brinckerhoff family no longer lives in Queens, but their legacy and their role in the development of the borough should be recognized in the designation of this cemetery.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.