

June 28, 2011

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF 150 CAROLL STREET, THE CAPTAIN JOHN H. STAFFORD HOUSE (95 PELL PLACE), AND THE SAMUEL H. AND MARY T. BOOTH HOUSE (30 CENTRE STREET); CITY ISLAND, THE BRONX AS INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS

Good morning Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy supports designation of the City Island buildings on today's calendar.

In 2008 the Bronx Borough President's Historic Preservation Task Force recommended that all of City Island be designated as a historic district. Today's hearing makes progress towards that goal by proposing three single-family houses for individual designation, that also instill City Island with its special sense of place.

150 Carroll Street, 30 Centre Street and 95 Pell Place represent different eras in the Island's development and parallel trends seen across New York. 150 Carroll is a small, Greek Revival-style frame building from the mid-19th century. The Booth House at 30 Centre is a larger turn-of-the-century Queen Anne. And the Stafford House is a fine model of the Sears catalogue Craftsman bungalows of pre-War suburban-style development. All three possess a picturesque quality that signifies City Island's charms. With their original massing and many intact decorative details, each exhibits a high degree of architectural integrity and certainly merit landmark designation.

City Island sometimes feels as though it is an idyllic world away. Yet its buildings connect it to the larger narrative of our metropolis. These three houses are all worthy of the guidance and protection of the Landmarks law and we commend the Commission for acting on them today.

Several years ago the Conservancy provided a loan and project management assistance to the owners of 175 Belden Street to undertake the award-winning restoration of their Victorian Gothic cottage at the southern end of City Island. We would be happy to discuss those services with the owners of the buildings heard today.

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