



January 15, 2013

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE HARRISON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT IN STATEN ISLAND

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 Harrison Street Historic District.

This one-block district features an intact grouping of 19th and early 20th century houses in a variety of styles typical of the era, and a handsome Dutch colonial Revival church. While there have been alterations to some of the buildings, the height, scale and massing is largely original, so that the changes do not detract from the overall appearance of a district. This area's small scale meets the "sense of place" test fundamental to the designation of an historic district. It also clearly merits the protection of the Landmarks Law and the review and guidance of any proposed changes to the fabric.

The Conservancy supports the designation of the Harrison Street Historic District as a representation of Staten Island's 19th century residential heritage. We look forward to providing homeowners and the Mt. Sinai United Christian Church assistance from our Technical Services Center, Sacred Sites Program and Historic Properties Fund. And we hope that designations of Staten Island historic districts become a more regular feature of LPC hearings. Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy's views.