

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

February 10, 2009

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C.
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF 11-41 123rd STREET, COLLEGE POINT, QUEENS, THE HERMAN A.
SCHLEICHER MANSION 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 is pleased to support designation of the Schleicher Mansion, built in 1851. New designations in Queens are always welcome, especially in a neighborhood such as College Point, which has few protected historic resources.

This two-and-a-half story brick building with Italianate and Second Empire details is a remnant of mid-nineteenth century College Point, a survivor of an era when estates were typical, and this area more rural in character. In the late 19th century, as College Point became a recreational destination, with resorts and access to the East River, the building was converted to a hotel. Today Herman Schleicher's former home sits on a small island surrounded by the traffic pattern of contemporary Queens. Although the use has changed from a single family mansion to current multi-family dwellings, and there have been some alterations, the mansion has lost little of its grandeur.

This property has been at the center of a recent dispute between its owner and residents, and it is our hope that designation might help stabilize the future of the building and bring a resolution. In the face of recurring development pressures, now is the time for designation of the Schleicher Mansion and the protection and guidance that the Landmarks Law provides.

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