



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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SEVEN OF STATEN ISLAND'S 19TH -CENTURY RESIDENCES AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES PLACED ON THE PATH TO LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Rare, Historic Buildings Linked to the Island's Agricultural, Fishing and Manufacturing Industries; Several Predate the Civil War

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today initiated the process of designating as individual landmarks five historic 19th-century residences, a former factory and a former store on Staten Island, the only borough in which substantial numbers of the City's earliest rural and suburban structures remain intact.



The Commission voted unanimously to "calendar," or set a date for a public hearing about the proposed designations, which will be scheduled at a later date. The decision culminates a year of review and assessment of the largely Greek Revival properties by the Agency, and builds on a proven record of preservation on the Island.

"Together, these highly intact and architecturally diverse residential and commercial buildings tell a story about Staten Island's rich past," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "They are important reminders of ways of life in our City that have largely disappeared. We look forward to continuing to preserve other distinct structures on the Island in the near future."

Since 2003, the Commission increased to 324 from 223 the total number of historic properties on Staten Island, the majority of which date back to the 19th century. Below are the names, addresses and brief descriptions of each of the properties that were calendared today:

- **Elsworth House**, 90 Bayview Avenue, Prince's Bay (photograph above and attached). Built between 1880 and 1887, near Lemon Park. Second Empire style residence for John H. Elsworth, who was in the oyster planting trade before he became Richmond County Sheriff, and later Richmond County Clerk.
- **Sprague House**, 6136 Amboy Road, Pleasant Plains. Built c. 1850-1855. Greek Revival house for boatman and oysterman Joseph H. Sprague and his wife Rebecca.

(more)

- **Wood House**, 5466 Arthur Kill Road, Tottenville. Built c. 1852. Greek Revival house combining Gothic and Italianate styles for oysterman Reuben Wood.
- **3833 Amboy Road Rouse**, Great Kills. Built c. 1840 as a farm house, later occupied by an oysterman.
- **George Cunningham Store**, 173 Main St., Tottenville. Built c.1893. This vernacular (?) Queen Anne-style store is a rare, intact example of a 19th-century South Shore commercial structure. Built as a result of development related to the oyster industry.
- **Nathaniel Wyeth House**, 190 Meisner Ave., Lighthouse Hill. Built c.1854-56. Italianate Villa built for Nathaniel Jarvis Wyeth, a prominent corporate attorney, state legislator, and civic leader who maintained a law office in this house. He was the nephew of Nathaniel Jarvis Wyeth, who explored the Pacific Northwest.
- **Standard Varnish Works**, 2589 Richmond Terrace, Elm Park. Built c. 1890s. Example of the American round-arch factory style, and incorporates details of late 19th-century German factory design. At one time, Standard Varnish Works was one of the largest manufacturers of varnish and enamel in the world.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. Created in 1965, the Commission is dedicated to preserving New York City's architectural, historical and cultural treasures and protects more than 23,000 buildings in all five boroughs, including 1,151 individual landmarks, 107 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 85 historic districts.