



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES STATEN ISLAND'S MARK W. ALLEN HOUSE A LANDMARK

*West New Brighton Craftsman Home Selected for Its Style and Exceptional Design and Detail,
Uncommon in New York City*

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously designated as a landmark the Mark W. Allen House at 665 Clove Road. Constructed between 1920 and 1921, the house is one of only a few Craftsman homes on Staten Island, and is remarkably intact, retaining many original details.



“Craftsman-style houses like the Allen House are rare not only on Staten Island, but in the rest of New York City,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “It’s a true beauty, and we are delighted to ensure the preservation of this picturesque home.”

The house was constructed as part of a residential section of West New Brighton that was developed in the 1920s by the Competent Home Building Corporation. The principals of the development and

construction company included August H. Ludwig and Mark W. Allen, for whom the house was built.

Mr. Allen, a Virginia native who moved to Staten Island in 1898, was a carpenter and owner of a large building supply company and was active in real estate. He served in the New York State Senate from 1923 to 1924, and was instrumental in the construction of the Goethals Bridge and the Outerbridge Crossing. Mr. Allen ran unsuccessfully for Staten Island Borough President in 1929, and remained active in civic organizations and lived with his family at 665 Clove Road until he died in 1958.

Craftsman-style architecture gained nationwide popularity at the beginning of the 20th century. Although Craftsman-style homes were built throughout the U.S. during the second and third decades of the 20th century, there are few in West New Brighton, and none is as fully developed or maintains as a high degree of integrity as the Allen House.

Its wide, overhanging eaves are typical of the Craftsman style, and evoke a sheltering quality. The use of cobblestones on the front piers and chimney demonstrates the architect's desire to link the house with its environment, making it even more picturesque. This well-proportioned, finely detailed house, prominently sited on a corner lot at the intersection of West Raleigh Avenue, also served as a cornerstone for the development of the neighborhood.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency responsible for designating and regulating New York City's landmarks. To date, the Commission has designated 1,136 individual landmarks, 106 interior landmarks, 9 scenic landmarks, and 85 historic districts.