



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7700 FAX: 212-669-7960
www.nyc.gov/landmarks



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CONTACT: Lisi de Bourbon
212-669-7938

STATEN ISLAND SAVINGS BANK BUILDING, AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF 20TH CENTURY NEO-CLASSICISM, IS GRANTED LANDMARK STATUS

Staten Island's First Successful Bank Stands Out as an Emblem of Financial Security and Serves as Main Anchor of the Stapleton Commercial District

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to designate the Staten Island Savings Bank Building as an individual New York City landmark. Completed in 1925 and sited prominently at the corner of Water and Beach streets on an angular lot, the bank was designed by the nationally recognized firm of Delano & Aldrich, whose other commissions include the Post Office Department Building and the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The architects took advantage of the site's acute angle, creating a dramatic entrance of a colonnaded portico with a fish-scaled, cast lead dome that recalls Stapleton's maritime heritage and reflects the building's purpose. In addition, the stately, one-story structure is a significant example of 20th century Italian Renaissance-inspired neo-Classicism on Staten Island.



“The Staten Island Savings Bank was an assuring presence during an era of deep economic uncertainty that preceded and followed the First World War,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. “Delano and Aldrich designed a marvelous building that communicated the bank's financial strength and continuity to people who put their savings in its hands.”

Over the entrance gate is a shield that features the bank's name and a hive and two bees representing industry, economy and thrift. An owl that stands atop the shield represents wisdom. The façade features a pair of dolphin sconces that support lanterns with their tails as well as scalloped shells and knotted ropes.

William Adams Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich had both worked at the acclaimed architecture firm of Carrere & Hastings -- responsible for the Richmond County Savings Bank and Borough Hall -- before they established their own firm in 1903. Aldrich, a Rhode Island native, had a strong connection to Staten Island through Aldrich Farm, a home for boys that he ran with his sister.

The Staten Island Savings Bank was founded in 1864 by a group of local businessmen, and opened in 1867. In 1997, it became a subsidiary of Staten Island Bancorp, a stock holding company that was acquired in 2004 by Brooklyn-based Independence Community Bank Corporation. Earlier this year, Independence merged with Sovereign Bancorp.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. Since its creation in 1965, the Commission has designated nearly 23,000 buildings in all five boroughs, including 1,144 individual landmarks, 107 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 85 historic districts.