

# FOUR BOROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

May 12, 2006

Hon. Robert Tierney  
Commissioner  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, Ninth Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10007

Re: St. Saviour's Episcopal Church  
57-40 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Maspeth, Queens

Dear Commissioner Tierney:

We are writing to ask you to reconsider designating this church and its property, the last piece of natural, open land in western Queens and a major part of New York City history.

The church dates from 1847, and was founded by David Jones, son-in-law of DeWitt Clinton, whose summer house was in the area, and dedicated by Episcopal Bishop William Delancey, of the old colonial and loyalist family for whom the famous Manhattan street is named. The church was erected on land owned by the Maurice family.

The church is perhaps the final surviving example of Richard Upjohn's country Gothic church style. Upjohn was New York's best early-to mid-19th Century architect. Unusually, it is clad in redwood beneath the thin siding that now covers it. While Manhattan's Trinity Church is Upjohn's best-known work, there are two survivors in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District, Grace Episcopal and the former Church of the Pilgrims, now part of Packer Collegiate Institute, but all three are traditional stone Gothic churches.

The site should be designated to preserve some of New York's rural past rather than being sacrificed on the altar of mindless housing development, which will require a rezoning of the site which is in an M-1 area, obtaining which is at issue. The church acts as a buffer between the old manufacturing area and railroad tracks and the lovely Maspeth residential district.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you soon.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Robert Furman  
Chair

cc: Mary Beth Betts  
Hon. Dennis P. Gallagher  
Hon. Tony Avella

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**Fred Xuereb, Brooklyn Community Board #7**  
**Norman Siegel, Counsel** *Organizational Affiliations for Identification Only*

c/o Carroll Gardens Association, Inc.  
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