

SERPHEIN R. MALTESE
SENATOR, QUEENS COUNTY

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
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May 16, 2006

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

Dear Commissioner Tierney:

I am writing to lend my support to the efforts to have the St. Saviour's Church in Maspeth, Queens designated as a landmark.

The church is historically significant not only because of its architecture, but also because of its founding fathers. The church dates back to 1847 and was founded by David Jones, son-in-law of DeWitt Clinton, whose summer house was in the area at the time. It was dedicated by Episcopal Bishop William Delancey, a descendant of the old colonial and loyalist family for whom the famous Manhattan street is named. The church was erected on land owned by Congressman James Maurice, for whom Maurice Avenue is named.

Architecturally, 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. St. Saviour's is particularly unusual because it is faced in redwood beneath its present siding. 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.

I believe the site should be designated to preserve New York City's history. I also can attest to the importance of this site as a green space to the local community. The church acts as a buffer between the old manufacturing area, railroad tracks and the lovely Maspeth residential district.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about this issue and thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Serphein R. Maltese".
SERPHEIN R. MALTESE
Senator, Queens County

SRM:vv