

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE
THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING
AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE MARY AND DAVID
BURGHER HOUSE (63 WILLIAM STREET) IN STATEN ISLAND.**

April 7, 2010

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Mary and David Burgher House, 63 William Street, in Staten Island.

On August 11, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Mary and David Burgher House. Ten people spoke in favor of designation, including Councilmember Kenneth Mitchell, one of the building's owners, and representatives of the Historic Districts Council, the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance, and the Preservation League of Staten Island. In addition, the Commission received one letter in support of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to the designation. On January 12, 2010, the Commission voted to designate the building a New York City individual landmark.

The Mary and David Burgher House at 63 William Street is a fine surviving example of a vernacular Greek Revival-style residence, built c.1844 in the Stapleton section of Staten Island. The most distinguished feature of the house is its monumental, two-story classical portico set below an over-hanging flared eave – a combination that is characteristic of Staten Island builders' interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Other characteristics typical of the style include the eared entrance enframing; the paneled wood door with a full transom and sidelights; six-over-six, doublehung windows with shutters; and vernacular Doric pillars.

The house was constructed in the mid-19th century, at a time when the residential development of the surrounding area of Stapleton was just getting underway. With its excellent ports, close proximity to Manhattan via ferry, and proximity to good roads, Stapleton developed as one of the earlier suburban neighborhoods on the island.

Constructed for fisherman David Burgher, the house serves as a reminder of the importance of maritime commerce for Staten Island's economy in the 1840s and 1850s, and of the role that the harbor played in the development of New York City. A relatively rare surviving example of a building type that was once prominent on Staten Island, 63 William Street recalls one of the borough's most important mid-19th century building traditions.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. All for Landmarks Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 4/7/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: LPC

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

LU 63

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 4/7/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rosemary McCormick

Address: 63 William St

I represent: owner/president

Address: 63 William St

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀