

CENTURY MEMORIALS

FEATURED AT

IN MEMORIAM
WAYNE E. HAKOLA
1901-1969
JOHN HAKOLA
1873-1938

BROOKLYN MONUMENT COMPANY, INC. ESTABLISHED 1929

PRESIDENT
JOHN W. HAKOLA, CM
CERTIFIED MEMORIALIST

• AND AFFILIATE J. R. PITBLADDO, INC. ESTABLISHED 1854
• 242 TWENTY-FIFTH STREET • BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11232 • NEAR MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

• 718-499-8500

FAX 718-768-7323

October 24, 2011

Hon. Brad Lander, Chairman
Sub-Committee on Landmark, Public Siting
and Maritime Use
New York City Council, City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Landmarks, Weir Greenhouse Purchase by Green-Wood Cemetery

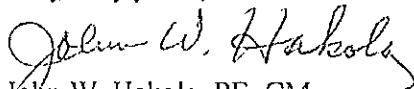
Dear Mr. Lander:

We are writing in support of the purchase of the Weir Greenhouse property at 5th Avenue and 25th Street, Brooklyn, NY by the Green-Wood Cemetery. As an adjacent business, we would be happy to see the purchase take place.

This acquisition by the cemetery should be good for the entire neighborhood. Green-Wood Cemetery is an organization which has perpetuated itself over many generations through diligent care and maintenance of its buildings and grounds. It is a good neighbor to the entire area, and a steadfast model for our local businesses.

Based on Green-Wood's attention to maintenance details, we believe that the current poor condition of the Weir Greenhouse facility would be greatly improved under Green-Wood's stewardship. We therefore urge you to approve the purchase.

Very truly yours,



John W. Hakola, PE, CM
President

GWnyccouncil111024

MEMBERS OF
THE HUNDRED YEAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK
ASSOCIATED GRANITE CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD
NEW YORK STATE MONUMENT BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION
MONUMENT BUILDERS OF NORTH AMERICA

October 27, 2011

Aaron Brashear
Co-founder, Concerned Citizens of Greenwood Heights
311 23rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Public testimony to Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitting and Maritime Uses on Application no. 20125043 CCK, in support of the purchase of the McGovern/Weir Florist by Green-Wood Cemetery

I would like to thank the Subcommittee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my community about the acquisition of the McGovern/Weir Florist by Green-Wood Cemetery.

I wholly support the purchase of the McGovern/Weir Florist by Green-Wood Cemetery. The purchase of this property by Green-Wood would not only be an excellent addition to the cemetery, but an asset to the community.

My wife and I moved to Greenwood Heights, Brooklyn in 2004. We were fortunate enough to purchase a house directly across the street from Green-Wood. Since then, we have cherished our proximity to our "biggest neighbor" for its green space, history, nature and serenity in the heart of the city.

Personally and through our community group, my wife and I have advocated many times on behalf of the cemetery, both to preserve its historic view corridor from Battle Hill to the Statue of Liberty and to educate our community about the importance of this cultural institution.

When we learned of Green-Wood's possible purchase of the McGovern/Weir property, across the street from their main entrance, we were very happy.

While Greenwood Heights has an eclectic mix of housing stock, mixed-use industrial businesses and diverse cultural make-up, one of our biggest treasures is Green-Wood. Currently, that treasure is being marred by the current condition of the McGovern/Weir property.

While its neighbor across the street has been able to maintain the National Historic Landmarked Gothic Arch and grounds, the McGovern/Weir property has fallen into disrepair and is no longer the beautiful Victorian masterpiece it was once considered, leading to its landmarking in 1982.

The cemetery has stated it will work to restore the greenhouse portion of the property to its former glory. In addition to this restoration, which will completely change the entryway to Green-Wood, and our community, from the 25th Street R subway stop heading towards 5th Avenue, the cemetery has presented a plan of acceptable reuse of the property.

The idea of turning the restored greenhouse into a visitor's center would make a wonderful introduction to the historic cemetery, and the community in which is situated, to the hundreds of thousands of visitors that the cemetery receives each year.

In conclusion, the proposed purchase is not only beneficial to the cemetery, something alone I would support, but will add another jewel to our community, benefiting everyone who lives and visits our neighborhood.

Thank you and I hope this subcommittee will support Application no. 20125043
CCK.

Testimony of John W. Burns,
New York City Council – Sub Committee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime
Uses. October 27,2011

Council Member Lander & Committee Members:

I am here to support Green - Wood Cemetery's plan to acquire the Mc Govern Florist/
Weir Greenhouse property.

As a member of the South Park Slope – Greenwood Heights community I know that the
acquisition of this property by Green - Wood will best serve the long term interest of our
community.

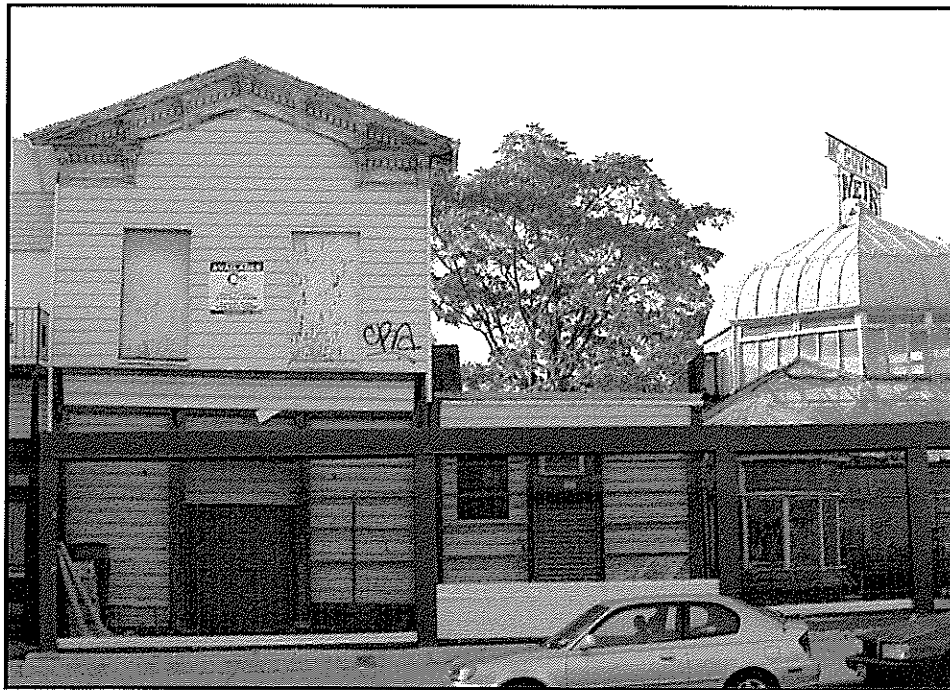
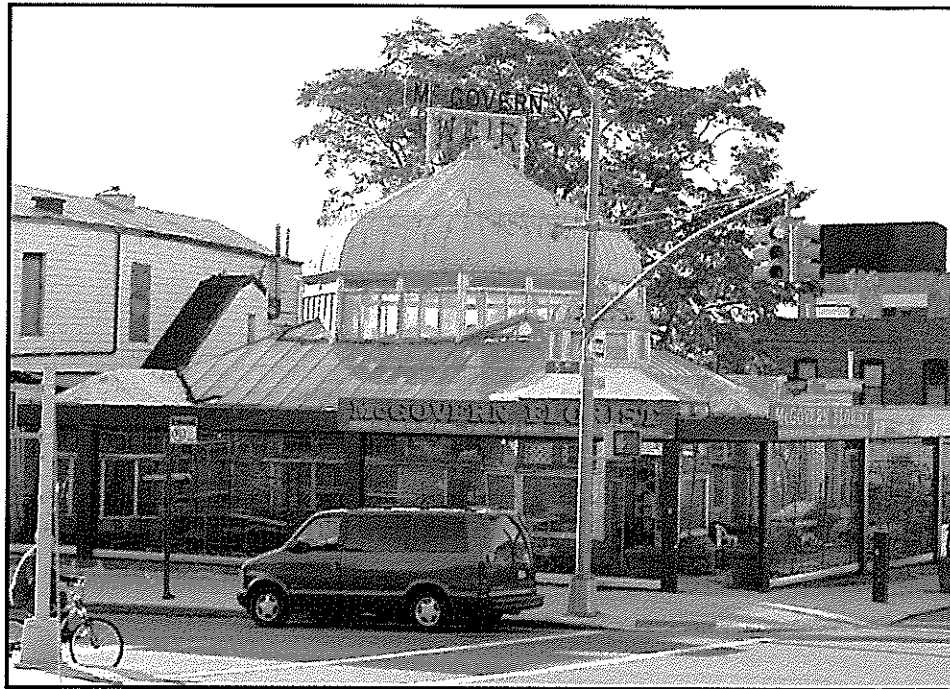
This beautiful landmark building once restored will provide a new space for exhibits and
educational events. It will enhance the historical significance of Green – Wood. Both my
children attended PS 321 and every fall the 5th Graders would be loaded up on buses and
driven 4 -5 hours west to Gettysburg. While there is obvious historical significance to
that location, I could never understand why the students were never taken to Green Wood
which was the model for the Gettysburg Cemetery. Green Wood is also the home of
many famous an infamous New Yorkers and I believe the acquisition of this property will
provide a positive educational benefit not just to the children and the people of Brooklyn,
but for all New Yorkers.

Green Wood has been a great neighbor to our community providing support in our re-
zoning efforts a few years ago and hosting events that are free to the public including the
annual Battle of Brooklyn celebrations.

Let me add my name to those who are supporting this acquisition of the Mc Govern
/Weir Greenhouse by Green - Wood.

John W. Burns
29 Webster Place
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

McGovern Florist (formerly Weir Greenhouse), 750 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11232
Building conditions as of October 2011



McGovern Florist (formerly Weir Greenhouse)

LOCATION MAP



REASONS FOR ACQUISITION, RESTORATION AND REUSE.

1. Since 1895, the McGovern/Weir building has graced the approach to the historic Green-Wood gates and Gothic Arch
2. In 1980, the building was made an Individually Designated NYC Landmark
 - Property allowed to deteriorate over the years to its current decrepit condition
 - Green-Wood will restore the Landmark and build new adjacent offices
 - Individually Designated NYC Landmark would now be tied to a National Historic Landmark
3. Potential Uses:
 - Offices, to allow more space in cemetery for new interments
 - Exhibit space for Green-Wood's extensive art and Historic Fund collection
 - Visitor / Welcome Center at street level
4. Ideally located near NYC subway (R train) and Green-Wood's visitor parking area
5. Surrounded by a manufacturing use M-1 district, with limited community impact



Contact: Cozen O'Connor, Land Use Counsel
Kenneth K. Fisher, 212-883-4962 / kfisher@cozen.com
Paul J. Proulx, 212-883-4962 / pproulx@cozen.com

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

2

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LV466 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/27/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RICHARD MOYLAN

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

3

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LV466 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/29/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMEON BANKOFF

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LV 466 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/27/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SIMEON BANKOFF

Address: _____

I represent: Historic Districts Council

Address: 232 E 11 St NY 10003

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 466 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/27/2011

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN W. Burns

Address: 29 Webster Place Brooklyn

I represent: _____ 11215

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. L0466 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/29/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AARON BRASHEAR

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. L0466 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/27/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PAUL PRAY

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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