

**MINUTES**

**196<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**September 12, 2024**

**Meeting held at  
New York State Museum  
Albany, New York**

**Virtual option for the public via WebEx webinar**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bmyz913ottk>

The meeting was held in person at the Huxley Theater of the New York State Museum, Albany, Albany County, New York.

The following people attended the meeting (\*denotes remote participation via WebEx):

**SRB Members**

Douglas Perrelli, Chair  
Wint Aldrich  
Carol Clark  
Jay DiLorenzo  
Molly Garfinkel  
Wayne Goodman  
Kristin Herron  
Erika Krieger  
Jennifer Lemak  
Tom Maggs  
Gretchen Sorin

**OPRHP Staff**

Melissa Baer  
Ashley Barrett\*  
Daniel Boggs  
Chris Brazee  
Olivia Brazee  
Sloane Bullough  
Beth Cumming\*  
Erin Czernecki  
Weston Davey\*  
Molly Donahue\*  
Sara Evenson  
Johnathan Farris\*  
Joselyn Ferguson  
Nancy Herter  
Campbell Higle  
Olivia Holland  
Kathy Howe  
Jeff Iovannone  
Bill Krattinger\*  
Leslie Krupa  
Aine Leader-Nagy  
Kathleen LaFrank  
Daniel Mackay  
Travis Magaluk\*  
Dan McEneny

Sara McIvor\*  
Theresa Moriarity\*  
Michelle O'Clair  
Tabitha O'Connell  
Lisa Petruzzelli  
Katherine Raymond\*  
Cordell Reaves\*  
Michael Schifferli\*  
Jessica Schreyer  
Robyn Sedgwick\*  
Matthew Shepherd\*  
Sydney Snyder\*  
Mariana Staines\*  
Frances Stern\*  
Chelsea Towers  
Christina Vagvolgyi\*  
Jessica Vavrasek\*  
Jennifer Walkowski

**Guests**

Kendal Anderson\*  
Patricia Bautista Tiburcio, CCNY/CUNY\*  
William Bollinger\*  
Tanya Bonner\*  
Janice K. Bryant\*  
Ryan Cameron\*  
Yuien Chin\*  
China Clarke, NYS Department of State  
Lydia Cuadros\*  
Kelsey Dootson\*  
Millicent Essandoh-Bergwerk\*  
Maya Hatcher\*  
Neil Larson\*  
Ashley Lee\*  
Alan Levine\*  
Cheryl Miller\*  
Waldemar Morety, CCNY/CUNY\*  
Veronica Mott\*  
Clifton Patrick\*  
Croghan-Depot\*  
Johanna Garcia\*  
J. Guerrero\*  
Geoff Hintz, Yeomans House\*  
Rachel Kahn\*

Jesse Kling\*  
Jared Knowles\*  
Pierre Loson, CCNY/CUNY\*  
Glen Noto\*  
Wendy L Olivo, office of Assembly Member Al Taylor, 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District\*  
Lindsay Peterson, Higgins Quasebarth\*  
Afua Preston\*  
George Preston\*  
Michael Quinnie\*  
Jessie Ravage\*  
Liz Ritter\*  
Annette Rivera\*  
Linda Santoro, Heritage Consulting\*  
Parker Saturday\*  
Alexander Scheirle\*  
Todd J Simpson\*  
Sidie Sisay, CCNY/CUNY\*  
Hank Store\*  
Erin Tobin, AARCH  
Yating Wang\*  
Jeff Zahn\*  
Joseph W. Zarzynski, independent researcher and maritime archaeologist

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Perrelli at 10:44 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2024. He welcomed everyone to the 196th meeting of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation at the Huxley Auditorium of the New York State Museum. An in-person quorum of State Review Board members is required but the meeting is also being offered remotely via WebEx. He drew attention to the fact that we are within the 100th anniversary year of the great New York State Park system.

Doug began the meeting by calling the roll and he asked Board Secretary Kathy Howe to include in the roll call Chuck Vandrei, a colleague and board member, who passed away since the last meeting. He also asked board members to briefly describe their role or function as it relates to their service on the board. The following board members were present:

- Wint Aldrich: Historian, former Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation at State Parks
- Carol Clark: Professor of historic preservation and a former Deputy Commissioner at State Parks
- Jay DiLorenzo: President, Preservation League of New York State
- Molly Garfinkel: Co-director of City Lore in New York City

- Wayne Goodman: Executive Director of The Landmark Society of Western New York in Rochester
- Kristin Herron: Program Director for Design Arts and Museums, represents the New York State Council on the Arts
- Erika Krieger: Registered Architect, represents the Secretary of State, NYS Department of State
- Jennifer Lemak: Chief Curator of History at the New York State Museum, represents the Commissioner of Education
- Tom Maggs: Appointed commissioner with NYS Parks and Historic Sites
- Doug Perrelli: Board Chair, serving as an archaeologist on the board, teaching professor at the University of Buffalo and Director of Archaeological Survey
- Gretchen Sorin:\*\* Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies

There being ten members present, a quorum was confirmed. Note: \*\*Gretchen Sorin arrived at 11:45 a.m., after the Call to Order, so was not counted until after the initial quorum count was made. With Gretchen's arrival the total number of participating members was eleven.

The roll call ended with a moment of silence in honor of former board member Chuck Vandrei, who passed away on July 19, 2024.

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

Doug asked board members if they had any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the June 2024, State Review Board meeting.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### **Preservation Issues in the Adirondacks**

Erin Tobin, Executive Director, Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH)

Erin Tobin, Executive Director of AARCH, presented the fascinating history of this nonprofit historic preservation organization and discussed current projects and preservation issues in the Adirondack region.

## **National Register Nomination Reviews**

Chelsea Towers welcomed the nomination sponsors, consultants, and property owners who have worked very hard alongside our National Register and Tax Credit Part 1 staff to prepare the nominations being presented today. Today's roster includes 24 nominations from 17 counties, several of which are additional documentation amendments. With these nominations, we will potentially add over 1,500 properties to the National Register. We will hear about shipwrecks and marine archaeology, a railroad line, industrial history; we'll learn about how a small village transformed into a thriving craft colony, and even about the history of sailing vessels and leisure activities. Of these nominations, 13 are in support of commercial tax credit applications and 11 are honorary designations.

Chelsea noted that over the past several meetings her comments to the board have been marked by growth within the Survey and National Register Unit as well as some sad goodbyes, and this meeting is no different. Since we last met, the unit has welcomed Olivia Holland, who joins us after completing her Master's in Historic Preservation from Pratt Institute. Olivia started working for us just over three weeks ago. This will be the last meeting for Tabitha O'Connell of the National Register Unit and Jen Walkowski of the Part One Tax Credit Unit. Tabitha joined us just over a year and a half ago and made a substantial impact during their short time here. As the board knows, Jen has been presenting nominations for over ten years and has been a particularly strong advocate for tax credits in Buffalo for much of that time. We wish both of them luck during the next portion of their careers.

Staff have worked very hard to prepare today's nominations and presentations. A special thank you to Erin Czernecki, who prepared the nomination slides. For our guests who are joining us remotely and who have a special interest in the nominations presented here today, you are welcome to offer comments following the presentation of your specific nomination. Each virtual attendee should have the ability to unmute themselves when it is their turn to speak.

### **Nomination 1: Sugar Loaf Historic District, Chester, Orange County**

Tabitha O'Connell

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Community Planning & Development

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: ca. 1780-1974

Tabitha noted that we have received multiple letters of support for this nomination, which is sponsored by the Sugarloaf Community Foundation. We have also received public comment from the Sugarloaf Historical Society, which would prefer that the district have a larger boundary; the board was provided a copy of this letter before today's meeting.

Discussion: Doug wanted to know what role the 1967 crafts movement history played in the drawing of the boundaries of the district compared to the architectural significance. Tabitha said that the boundary is largely based on the earlier hamlet boundary, as this same area is the center of the craft village. Tabitha said that you can see how the development is centered on this stretch of King's Highway and then gets a lot sparser to the south; up to the northwest is a newer residential development that isn't connected to the craft village at all. This boundary encompasses both the historical and earlier core of development and the main area where the craft village businesses are centered.

Wint commented that this is an interesting bifocal story which makes him think of the proposed Washington Heights district that we will be talking about later. Carol added that this certainly is interesting with the early beginnings of Sugar Loaf and then this wonderful revitalization later. She said that it is an unusual story and certainly one that's worthy of Register listing given its characteristics.

Kristin brought up the concern by the Historical Society. She said that certainly there is precedent that should there be additional research in the future the boundaries could be changed. Tabitha said that that was correct.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Wayne Goodman

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

### **Nomination 2: General Electric Building 31, Schenectady, Schenectady County**

Tabitha O'Connell

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Industry

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: ca. 1887-1948

Tabitha noted that this is a commercial tax credit project with an approved Part One. We received a letter of support from the City of Schenectady, which is a CLG.

Discussion: Doug asked if there was a plan for adaptive reuse. Tabitha said yes but she did not know what is planned for the reuse.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 3: General Electric Building 32, Schenectady, Schenectady County**

Leslie Krupa

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1909

Leslie said that this building is next door to Building 31. It is also a commercial tax credit project with an approved Part One application.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Jennifer Lemak

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 4: Lowville & Beaver Railroad Historic District, Lowville, to Croghan, Lewis County**

Leslie Krupa

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Transportation

Period of Significance: ca. 1880-1974

Leslie said that this is an honorary nomination that was sponsored by the Railway Historical Society of Northern New York. The district represents seven property owners, and, of those, we have received four letters of support and two letters of objection. The letters of objection were from the railroad subsidiaries of the Genesee Valley Transportation Company. Leslie said that joining us remotely today is Laurie Halladay, Croghan Town Historian, who represents the Railway Historical Society, which is one of the nomination sponsors.

Discussion: Laurie Halladay said that on behalf of the Railway Historical Society, she thanked the board for hearing the presentation today and, as the Town of Croghan Historian, she appreciates the work that the board does in preserving history for future generations. She can attest to the rarity of this short line railroad, noting that there is only one other one in New York State that is on the Register. (The room lost audio.)

While waiting to restore room audio from the remote speaker, Doug commented on the historic image of the huge wheel of cheese, wondering if it was cheddar. Leslie didn't know but she said that this was taken outside the depot. She said that this area was the largest producer of maple syrup in the state and that there is a maple museum in Croghan. She added that her favorite image of cheese is on the title slide, which was taken at the New York State Fair in 1921.

Doug said that one of the interesting things he read in this nomination was concerning the victory of the railroads over the canals in NYS and that transition happened rather quickly after the canals were built. He also was wondering how the turntable worked, wanting to know if there were horses that turned it. Leslie did not know the answer, but she said that they were Armstrong turntables, which are somewhat rare to see. Wint said that the nomination noted that the turntable was so precisely balanced so that if a locomotive was centered that one man could push the thing around and you could see, in the photograph, there were small casters on the outer edge. Leslie said that the engine yard in Lowville does have one of the turntables, but she didn't include a picture of it. She added that there is some rolling stock that was unrelated to the LBRR that the owner of that property has on that turntable. She would be happy to send pictures of it, but she said that we didn't include that particular rolling stock because it's unrelated.

Doug asked if there was ever consideration of Criterion C for architecture. Leslie said that we decided on transportation and not architecture due to integrity issues with some of the depots. Rather, the focus of the nomination was on the history and the rarity of the railroad as a whole versus the architecture of the buildings. Wint asked if this is the first entire railroad line that we've looked at. Leslie knows of one other short line that's listed and it's the Adirondack Line (she wasn't sure of the full name of it). She doesn't recall when that was listed but she thinks that it was well over 15 to 20 years ago. This proposed resource is one of the very few that she has found that has a high level of integrity, including the resources that contribute to it beyond the tracks. Tom Maggs made note of the Southern Railway line that came out of Rensselaer and went to Kinderhook many years ago; he believes it was called the Albany and Southern. Wint said there was a line that was an interurban that later became a walking trail.

The room audio was restored for Town of Croghan Historian Laurie Halladay, who was participating via WebEx. On behalf of the Railway Historical Society, Ms. Halladay again thanked the board. She noted again that she can attest to the rarity of this short line railroad, saying that there's only one other one in New York State on the National Register. She has a saying as town historian: it is important to know what our ancestors did to get us here today. It's one thing to read about it from a book but to see all four depots, track, turntable, and swing bridge, to touch it, to feel the wind going through your hair as you ride down the rails on historic rail equipment, tour the Croghan Depot, see where the station agent's family live, and to step in the footsteps of railroad workers gives life to the tour guide's words and the words in a history book. This puts history to heart. It plants the seed of history for future generations. With the nomination of the Lowville & Beaver River Railroad Historic District to the State and National Registers our community will be able to water its history and make it come more alive by opening doors for us to access grants for future historic preservation work. This will help us to reach more hearts by placing the love of history within each smiling face that visits our community. She thanked the board again for their time.

Wint said that there was a letter of objection, as he understands it, from the owner of the trackage and there are seven other owners of individual structures. So that means there is only one objection out of eight. Wint said that it is a curious anomaly that most of the land is owned by the objector. To clarify, Leslie said that we have seven property owners; two of those are the owners of the rail line. There are technically two rail lines that run parallel through Lowville; one is the LBRR that veers off just north of Lowville and the other line veers to Carthage (which is not included in this nomination). Genesee Valley Transportation is the umbrella company, but each railway is a separate company, so we have two owners of the rail. She said we have four other private property owners and the Railway Society owners. We also received a response from the Town of New Bremen, which is supportive of the nomination.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Carol Clark

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

#### **Nomination 5: Seneca Chief shipwreck, Canandaigua Lake, Ontario County**

Jessica Schreyer

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

D: Archaeology

Period of Significance: 1887-1896

Discussion: Wint commented that the meteorological research done as part of this project was very clever. He remarked on the wreck's location being at nine feet and the lake at thirteen feet deep and pointed out that this must be a hazard to navigation as there is only a four-foot difference.

Gretchen said that she had a hard time with this nomination. She said that she is not as convinced as everybody else seems to be. She commented that a lot of the boat was already removed before they sank it, noting that they took out the engine and all of the significant parts. She remarked that it is basically a shell. She asked Jessica if this is correct. Jessica responded that it is not known whether the rudder is present. She said that some parts could be buried in the sediment. The archaeologists weren't able to look beneath the hull, which has settled into the sediment; it is possible that there are some parts that are hiding in the sediment. Doug pointed out that under Criterion D this is a legitimate research question.

Gretchen stated that the boat is just going to continue to rot until there is nothing left. Doug wanted to know if this is going to be a dive site and if the site location would be publicized. Jessica said that the location will not be shared; it will be on the National Register, but all of the locational info will be redacted.

Erika asked if the mussels might be helping to preserve the condition of the boat. Jessica thought that the mussels continually eat away at the metal. Doug then said that it is a threatened resource in that sense. He wanted to know if there is a plan to do anything about this threat.

Maritime archaeologist Joseph W. Zarzynski spoke next. He said that he recently ended his tenure serving on the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. He is an independent researcher now and has given up scuba diving after nearly 3,000 dives. The *Seneca Chief* was discovered in 2014 and Scott Hill, a colleague, contacted him and said there is some interest on the part of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association of turning this site into an underwater park not only for scuba divers but, because of its shallow nature, to be enjoyed by kayakers, canoeists, and people who go snorkeling. The association had targeted two shipwrecks, one being the *Seneca Chief* and the other the *Onnalinda* to be buoyed and brought to the attention of people.

Mr. Zarzynski noted that because the hull of the *Seneca Chief* is constructed of steel and, as you can see from imagery, it is quite durable even though it has a coating primarily of quagga mussels. Quagga mussels reproduce at a greater frequency than Zebra mussels, so they are winning out in the battle of attachment. In the future, there may be an effort to open up this area for recreational and heritage tourism. Doug asked if the site would be made publicly accessible below the water surface. Mr. Zarzynski answered that in New York State there are Submerged Heritage Preserves administered by DEC. He said that he led a nonprofit that opened the first ones in the state in 1993 in Lake George. There are other waterways interested in doing things like this so that we can share something that has been so out of sight and bring it to the forefront of the public as well as visitors to our waterways.

Wint asked if the mussels are destroying the vessel. Mr. Zarzynski said that in this particular case, not so much. He said that there is a lot more data on Zebra mussels which attach to vessels with secretions called byssal threads. Byssal threads can have some effect on a vessel's fasteners. The research on Zebra mussels, which began about 30 to 35 years ago, is still in its infancy in terms of what is the long-term effect on submerged material culture. He said that in the case of the *Seneca Chief* that the quagga mussels do not appear to be causing much destruction, but they are encasing the vessel. We do not know if the mussels might even be serving as some kind of long-term preservation as well as a destructive thing so, to be determined. He said that he hopes to be around to be able to address that.

Mr. Zarzynski added that last week in Oswego there was a celebration for the announcement of the sixteenth National Marine Sanctuary. He said that there are 8,000 waterways in the state, and some of these waterways are no wider than from where he is standing to the door. He added that he hopes to get a trickle-down effect in terms of this sanctuary and as it is emerging to the public it will trickle down to other waterways.

This is important because it shows that in this poker game of historic preservation, we're not putting all the chips into the eastern part of Lake Ontario but we are looking at other waterways. He said that this is very significant, and he complimented those people who worked on this nomination as it sends a message to all New Yorkers that we are a maritime state.

Kristin said that we have seen nominations for archaeological sites come before the board and these must raise specific research questions even though we do not know the answers. So the board votes on these types of nominations based on the research potential. Kristin said to correct her if she is wrong but that she didn't see the research questions in this particular nomination. Doug said that research questions were spelled out on the form for this nomination. Kristin said she was looking for them as bulleted items, so she asked if they were then embedded in the narrative. Jessica said that those questions are in the second part of the narrative.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Wayne Goodman

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

#### **Nomination 6: Yoemans House, East Aurora, Erie County**

Campbell Higle

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1884-1885

Campbell said that the current owners of the house, Geoffrey and Karen Hintz, have been working on its restoration, including, most recently, the repair of the chimneys and window surrounds. We received a letter of support from the Village of East Aurora, which is a CLG.

Discussion: Geoffrey Hintz, owner of the Yoemans House, said that he grew up in a house in New Jersey of stone construction with 3-ft-thick walls. It was built in 1769 for the manager of a neighboring gristmill. This New Jersey home sparked his lifelong appreciation for old houses and their histories. Today he and his wife view themselves not just as homeowners but as caretakers of this property's history with a responsibility to the community and future generations. They believe that this National Register listing will benefit East Aurora, adding to the richness of what the village is known for from the Roycroft Arts and Crafts movement, the home of a U.S. president, Vidler's Five & Dime, and Fischer Price Toys. He thanked the board for considering their property for inclusion in the National Register.

Doug asked if any consideration was given to Criterion B. Campbell responded that Yoemans only lived there for about three years and then moved to Iowa, which is where

he really began his political career, so that it made the most sense to focus only on Criterion C.

Motion to approve: Molly Garfinkel

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

### **Nomination 7: Sattler Theater, Buffalo, Erie County**

Jennifer Walkowski

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Entertainment/Recreation

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1914-1963

Jennifer said that the building became vacant in 1996. It was not until 2008 that the long-neglected building was purchased by Western New York Minority Media Professionals, Inc.

Discussion: Owner Michael Quinnie, of WNY Minority Media Professionals, Inc., thanked the board for their consideration of this nomination. He said that this project had its roots when he worked at WKBW TV Channel 7 in Buffalo, and he started a mentoring program for youth. The program grew to almost 500 kids running through a TV station daily and so they decided to grow and find a building that they could use as a way to nurture young talent and groom them professionally for jobs and training, and also be a place where they could get young people their first opportunities to find employment and participate in the film industry. He said that his organization is a very creative group and served as a multimedia mentoring and content creation group. Mr. Quinnie added that there hasn't been a project like this in a hundred years, since Dan Montgomery ran an entertainment complex in Buffalo in the Apollo, on Jefferson Avenue, which he grew up going to. He said that the community is very excited about the building, and he is very happy for the young people.

Molly said it is wonderful that this building has a future that will serve the local community. She commended Michael on the work his group is doing here to build momentum.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Kristin Herron

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 8: Spencer Kellogg Elevator, Buffalo, Erie County**

Jennifer Walkowski

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture. Engineering

Falls under the existing MPDF: Historic and Architectural Resources of the Buffalo Grain & Materials Elevators

Period of Significance: 1910-1911

Jennifer said that the elevator was recently purchased and rehabilitated by the Hope Rising Together organization, which is a nonprofit group that focuses on clean water, education, health care, and sustainable development in the West African nation of Sierra Leone. The reuse project retained many of the character-defining features of a grain elevator, including hoppers, the concrete structural system, and the interior volumes.

Discussion: Doug asked if the silos are illuminated. Jennifer said that she had not been there but, yes, they do illuminate some of the silos.

Wint asked if the period of significance for this resource was just the date of construction and Jennifer confirmed that that is correct. She explained that due to an associated factory that's no longer extant that we were unable to delve into the longer history of the company because there's just not enough physically surviving to speak to that so we focused solely on this as an architectural artifact. That said, we did provide the company history as context in the nomination. Doug said that architecturally it is the only remaining example of this architectural type. Tom mentioned the significance of the grain elevators to the Buffalo skyline and the images of all of the Great Lakes' ships that once came into this port. He added how this has become a destination spot and he finds it fascinating that we've seen a couple of reuse projects for elevators. That said, some do continue to be threatened and Buffalo has lost some in recent years.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Carol Clark

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 9: Alden State Bank, Alden, Erie County**

Jennifer Walkowski

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Commerce

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1925-1963

Jennifer mentioned that the Alden State Bank has recently reacquired the historic bank building and has been working on rehabilitating the building for modern banking purposes. This building will once again be used as a branch office.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Doug Perrelli

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 10: Reed Manufacturing Company, Newark, Wayne County**

Jennifer Walkowski

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Industry

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1903-1946

Jennifer said that we received letters of support from Assemblymember Brian Manktelow and the Newark Arcadia Historical Society.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Wayne Goodman

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

Doug Perrelli thanked Jennifer for all of the great work she did in Western New York and asked her if she wanted to take a moment to say a bit about where she is headed.

Jennifer said that she has worked for DHP for over 11 years and in the general field for almost 20 years. She is leaving DHP to work for the Office of General Services as Capitol Restoration Coordinator.

**Nomination 11: Lawrence Chapel and Cemetery, Catherine, Schuyler County**

Dan Boggs

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1880-1914

Discussion: Erika wanted to know if the original flooring remains, asking Dan if you can see the original wood flooring in the areas not covered by carpeting. Doug asked if the sconce was once supplied by gas. Dan said that he wasn't sure if it was originally a gaslit sconce, but it is now electric.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 12: Sailing Vessel *Gitano*, New Rochelle, Westchester County**

Dan Boggs

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Engineering

Period of Significance: 1936

Discussion: Wint found it interesting that the boat was originally heated by wood. Jennifer was wondering if there are minimum size requirements for a ship or boat to be listed on the Register; for example, could a canoe be listed? Staff responded that there are no minimum size requirements, and a canoe could be listed if it meets the NR criteria.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 13: Louise Terrace/Colonial Road Historic District, Brooklyn, Kings County**

Jeff Iovannone

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Community Planning & Development

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1927

Jeff noted that the nomination was prepared by Lindsay Peterson, who is a homeowner in the district. We received a letter of support from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and two letters of support from property owners in the district.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Jennifer Lemak

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 14: Dollar Savings Bank, Bronx, Bronx County**

Chris Brazee

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Commerce

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1932-1952

Chris said that this building remained a bank until 2014, at which point the property became vacant. We have received a letter of support from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, which is a CLG. This is a tax credit project with an approved Part One application.

Discussion: Bill Bollinger, one of the project sponsors, thanked the board for their consideration of the nomination. He said that this is a beautiful old building. The local community, as part of the community board process, is tremendously supportive, especially of the supermarket that will be going into the lower bank portion of the building, and everybody's very excited about the clock coming back, which is kind of like "Back to the Future." That clock has been out of commission for decades so everybody's excited about it coming back. He added that the tax credits are a very important part of the capital that's needed to bring this building back to its glory.

Motion to approve: Wayne Goodman

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 15: Gaylord White Houses, New York, New York County**

Chris Brazee

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History, Politics/Government

Period of Significance: 1962-1964

Chris said that we received a letter from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission concurring that this property appears eligible for listing on the State National Registers. This is a tax credit project with an approved Part One.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 16: 28<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Station House, New York, New York County**

Chris Brazee

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Politics/Government, Social History

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1892-1974

Chris said that the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission strongly supports this nomination, noting that it has already been designated a local individual landmark. This is a tax credit project with an approved Part One.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Carol Clark

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

### **Nomination 17: Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District, New York, New York County**

Sara Evenson

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History, Ethnic History

C: Architecture

Criterion Consideration G: less than 50 years old

Periods of Significance: 1881-1973 (Crit. C) and 1961-1988 (Crit. A)

Sara presented the following presentation comments: The proposed Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District recognizes the architectural and cultural significance of Washington Heights, where the built environment and social history combine to tell a story of development, resiliency, and cultural significance. This district as a whole communicates the story of nineteenth- and twentieth-century urbanization as well as the importance of the many immigrant groups who have called Washington Heights home.

The proposed district stretches from West 155<sup>th</sup> Street in the south to Dyckman Street in the north, with Highbridge Park serving as its eastern boundary and Broadway serving as its western edge. This boundary captures the architectural history and cultural heritage of Washington Heights and the Dominican community that has been associated with the area since the 1960s. It includes 40 city blocks and around 1,500 resources.

The district is significant under Criterion C for architectural history and Criterion A for social history, which are expressed across two periods of significance. The architectural period of significance includes 1765, which captures the construction of the Morris-Jumel Mansion, 1872, the date of construction of the High Bridge Water Tower, and finally stretches from 1881 to 1973, which encompasses the rapid build out of the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as continuing expansion following World War II. This construction was largely a response to the growing demand for working-class housing, much of which was intended as homes for new immigrant groups who increasingly moved into this neighborhood.

The period of significance for social history stretches from 1961 to 1988 and captures the largest wave of Dominican immigration to the neighborhood and the establishment of the foundational Dominican political, social, and cultural organizations within Washington Heights. Because of this, the proposed Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District meets Criterion G for exceptional significance. In a span of less than 30 years, Washington Heights had become the most residentially concentrated neighborhood of Dominicans in the city. Additionally, by the late 1980s, the Dominicans of Washington Heights had become extremely active in the political life of their neighborhood and New York City by promoting economic development and exerting their social and cultural influence.

Major building efforts in Washington Heights did not begin until the late nineteenth century. Until then, the area had been predominantly farmland in the eighteenth century, and retreats for the wealthy during the early nineteenth century. The introduction of public transportation at the turn of the century, however, made Washington Heights much more proximate to the rest of New York City, and developers rapidly began building tenements and rowhouses to accommodate housing demand. This building process was carried out rapidly by many small developers, who often employed the same architects used for projects elsewhere in the neighborhood, creating a distinctive yet cohesive streetscape.

As the twentieth century progressed, substantial numbers of immigrants began moving into Washington Heights, including European Jews, Armenians, Greeks, Irish, and Germans. These individuals and families brought with them their unique cultures, foodways, and lifeways, and their growing numbers led to an ever-increasing need for additional housing. Many African Americans also moved into Washington Heights during the Great Migration; some of these people were attracted to Washington Heights' proximity to Harlem and its vibrant African American community. By the 1940s and 1950s, substantial numbers of Puerto Ricans began relocating into Washington Heights. As white flight increasingly occurred between the 1960s and 1980s, residential and commercial spaces became available to the increasing population of Dominican immigrants who came to use these spaces in their own ways.

While Dominican settlement in Washington Heights had begun as early as the 1880s, it was not until the 1960s that Dominicans became the primary immigrant group to permanently settle in Washington Heights. Dominican immigration into the United States, and into Washington Heights, dramatically increased in the 1960s following the assassination of dictator Rafael Trujillo and the US repeal of the Hart-Cellar Immigration Act which established national-origins quotas. Additionally, the Dominican Republic's Civil War of 1965 resulted in economic hardships which caused many Dominicans to seek new opportunities elsewhere. The establishment of a permanent community marks a cultural shift within the Dominican community wherein they began to view

Washington Heights as a permanent home in which they could build a culture and society.

As the number of Dominicans in Washington Heights continued to grow, these new New Yorkers began to establish distinct cultural and social patterns that differentiated them from other communities and identified them as Dominican. Between 1960 and the late 1980s the community utilized the existing built environment to establish a uniquely Dominican space. One of the ways this was achieved was through the establishment of permanent social and service organizations whose goal was to support and expand Dominican culture within Washington Heights. The founding of organizations including Club Juan Pablo Duarte in 1966, whose goal was to educate the people of Washington Heights on Dominican history, and the Centro Cultural Deportivo Dominicano in 1967, which served as a members-only social club to celebrate Dominican culture, provided gathering spaces within the community in which Dominican identity could be expressed and affirmed. In 1979, the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans was founded at 3940 Broadway, as one of the first Washington Heights organizations formed with the goal of helping Dominicans struggling with social issues such as poverty and lack of affordable housing. The emergence of this organization marked a turning point for Dominicans living in the area and reflects their decision to settle permanently in the U.S. and seek solutions to the problems that afflicted them in the spaces where they lived.

One of the most influential areas in which the Dominican community has impacted Washington Heights is through commerce, with small businesses and stores owned and operated by Dominicans representing one of the most significant economic drivers in the community. While the original architecture of these spaces remains largely intact, the ways in which Dominicans have decorated and come to use them is singular.

Additionally, one of the most visible forms of Dominicans' use of public spaces is the display of their art in Washington Heights. The neighborhood is famous throughout New York City for its outdoor performances, which range from carefully scripted events to spontaneous expressions, and distinctive murals and street art which can be found throughout the neighborhood.

In closing, the Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District is representative of the persistent significance of immigration history in New York City and demonstrates the importance of the Dominican community in Washington Heights. The combination of the built environment and the Dominican cultural use of the space speaks to the relationship between past, present, and future.

This nomination was prepared by the City University of New York's Dominican Studies Institute under the guidance of Dr. Ramona Hernandez. The board then heard a brief comment from the nomination sponsors at the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.

Discussion: Sidie Sisay of CUNY's Dominican Studies Institute read the following statement from Dr. Romana Hernandez, who was unable to attend today's meeting:

*I am Ramona Hernandez, Professor of Sociology at the City College of New York and the Director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute. Thank you, members of the board, for the opportunity to address you this afternoon as you prepare to vote on a proposal to create a Dominican historic district in a portion of Washington Heights. The proposal you received contains the labor and the aspirations of many people who have worked on preparing it for various years. Here, you have professors and graduate and undergraduate students, but this is not all. The content of this proposal also captured the labor and the dreams of a community; a marginalized community that contributed to the building of Washington Heights into what it is today. They came and they stayed put at a moment when buildings were sold for \$1; at a moment when many were running away, moving out of, and settling in more attractive neighborhoods in the city. This proposal represents a people who did not have a dollar to buy the buildings no one wanted. They came to the United States with "uno mano adelante y uno mano atrás;" translation: "one hand reaching forward and one hand reaching back" to cover their bodies. What Dominicans did have, however, is what every immigrant group brings in abundance: drive, motivation, self-reliance, and belief. This human capital is what they used to transform Washington Heights, to impregnate this neighborhood with the best of their culture and historical legacy, and with their soul. In the end, this proposal is about acknowledging the voiceless people who, despite their capable contributions to the neighborhood, where the children and the children's children have been born for generations now, are still repeatedly asked by others who feel they are the only ones who are entitled to claim this land as their own, "where are you from?" unquote. Finally, you may not be impressed with the number of letters that Dominican people sent expressing unconditional support for this project. This does not mean they're not interested rather; their apparent inaction reflects on unconditional trust in the system. Dominicans believe that what is palpable and visible to the naked eye does not need a trumpet. Concrete accomplishments and contributions speak loud and clear and they will therefore be judged with justice. Mucho Gracias. (End of statement.)*

Before opening the floor to public comment, Chelsea Towers shared that the Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District nomination proposal sparked strong community responses over the past few weeks. As of 8:00 am this morning, we have received 27 objections and 37 public comments in opposition to the district, and we have received letters of support from about 45 individuals. Chelsea said that the number of incoming responses continues to increase with more arriving in her email inbox even as we speak. As of this morning, the totals that we recognize here are over a hundred instances of public comment that the Survey and National Register staff have been working hard to categorize, log, and respond to the best we can. In preparation for

this meeting, the board was provided a compiled collection of all written comments to date. The character of the public comments spans a great multitude of responses. Many comments requesting postponement or rejection of the listing tend to document several points, which include lack of community outreach, a flaw in the public information process, a failure to recognize the full scale of diversity within the district boundary, and concerns over politicization. Many letters express concern over the name of the district in particular. This has spurred misinformation and confusion about this initiative and previous political efforts to rename Washington Heights neighborhood as a whole. As the board will be aware, the notification process for historic districts extends to fee simple property owners within a potential boundary supplemented by additional outreach conducted by the sponsor. The notification process and public outreach for this nomination followed the exact same procedures as all other National Register historic district nominations. We have done our best to correct misinformation about the National Register with this nomination, in particular, by sending the nomination document to individuals who offered common and posting the document on our website per our usual process. We have also received enthusiastic letters of support for the nomination. These typically reference the tremendous efforts by CUNY DSI (Dominican Studies Institute) sponsors in documenting and recognizing the legacy and contributions of the Dominican community in Washington Heights, which has culminated in this nomination today. The letters of support span a wide variety of community members, politicians, and social and civic organizations.

As part of today's meeting, I'm going to facilitate public comment for no more than 30 minutes. All those participating remotely who wish to speak should raise your hand within the WebEx platform; there is a button at the bottom of the WebEx browser for raised hands. If you cannot raise your hand, you may put your name in the comment field and we'll try to get to everyone as much as possible. I will call on you and you will be asked to unmute yourself. When it is your turn to begin your comment, please state your name and relationship to the district. Comments should be respectful and focus on new and additional information that was not covered in our presentations today and should be limited to two minutes. We will be strict about this so comments should be limited to two minutes per speaker. Unfortunately, if there is a substantial number of individuals who wish to comment, we may not have time to allocate to time to each and every one. Following public comment, I will ask for discussion from the board and then questions.

The first public comment was from Elizabeth (Liz) Ritter who said that she has lived in this community her entire adult life since 1983, a period of 41 years, when she moved here from college. Many of her relatives on her mother's side lived in this neighborhood from when they came to this country in the 1930s until they died in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Her mother's first cousins went to GW High School and her mother's father's brothers-in-law owned the car dealership at 3333 Broadway from the 1930s or '40s until they retired in the 1960s (she was a small child or not yet born so she doesn't have

those exact dates). Liz Ritter said that she loves this neighborhood and loves the fact that she lives in a largely Dominican neighborhood which adds spice and vibrance and deliciousness and culture and all many, many things that are good. She added that this is a changing immigrant community and that it has always been an immigrant community. While she respects the underpinnings of this proposal, the fact that it focuses on one specific group of immigrants is to the detriment, loss, and silencing of her Eastern European Jewish people, the many Russians who came here, both Jews and non-Jews who came in the '80s and '90s, the Irish, the German-Jews, and on and on and on, not to mention the fact that we are all on unseated, stolen Lenape land. She has deep respect and appreciation for the work of the DSI but she encourages the SHPO to, at a minimum, postpone this in consideration of some kind of proposal that honors not just the particular specialness of this Dominican community.

Chelsea Towers said that we have to maintain the two-minute time limit and thanked Liz Ritter for her comments.

Cheryl Miller spoke next, saying that she did not want to be repetitive because she does agree with a couple of things that Liz Ritter said. She said that she has lived in the community now for almost 20 years and while, yes, the Dominicans have contributed to the neighborhood she said that there are other cultures as well including Jews, Irish, Blacks; there are many, many cultures. She asked that the vote be postponed adding that as a community member, she and many members of the community had no idea about this proposal. She commented that many in the community were not notified. She said that she went to a meeting that was supposedly going to be held in secret in this community and they said that they had sent letters out to all the homeowners but the majority of the people in this neighborhood do not own homes, they rent apartments. So, this nomination proposal was done under the cloak of darkness. She asked that it be postponed until the whole of the community can speak and give their feedback. She added that she doesn't believe that one culture should be lifted up above other cultures in this community or any other community. She thanked the board for giving her the opportunity to speak.

Tanya Bonner was the next speaker. She thanked the board for allowing public comment on this proposal. She has lived in Washington Heights for 20 years and served on Community Board 12 representing Washington Heights and Inwood for over five years. She also noted that while on CB12 she was assistant chair of the land use committee at the time a different version of this proposal was presented about two years ago. Tanya Bonner mentioned that like Ms. Miller, she did not know anything about this proposal until someone sent it to her. She said that she then proceeded to try to alert everyone about the August 29th meeting, adding that no one in the community had received any kind of notification except for a select few. She said that notification by DSI listed who should attend including those who live within the boundaries of the proposed district, those who owned property there, business owners, community

leaders, and everyone who would like to learn more. Ms. Bonner said that this notification was supposedly sent out to the community, but it was not. The meeting was not representative of the community; there were people at the meeting who were on the community board, who were Dominican chair members of the community board, and mostly renters. She did not receive any information on this meeting. She noted that the community board did not disseminate this letter from DSI to inform the community about the August 29th meeting. She doesn't understand why inexplicably they were not informing anyone and even though there were chairs of their various committees on the community board who were there that they were Dominican members of the community board. She pointed out that she thinks that it would be illegitimate for the board to approve a proposal that the vast majority of people did not even know about. She is talking about business owners who have been here for years, decades and decades; and there were homeowners and landowners that reached out to her and they said they didn't know about the proposed district. She said that as noted, SHPO had received the bulk of the comments afterward.

The next speaker was Millicent Essandoh-Bergwerk. She and her family have lived at 187<sup>th</sup> Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas, since 1961. They live in a property that was built in 1901. She said that she is a very proud product of the vibrancy of Washington Heights. She grew up with many cultures and many languages and that is the essential basis of the person she is now. Ms. Essandoh-Bergwerk is not against celebrating the contributions of the Dominican culture but the designation of Washington Heights as solely a Dominican cultural historic district doesn't foster the "we" of home and it stimulates the "us" **not** you exclusionist mindset adding that it does not underscore the welcoming of Washington Heights. Washington Heights welcomed her parents when other communities in Manhattan would not. This exclusionist mindset is the very mindset of colonization that ushers in gentrification; it ushers in the erasure of multiculturalism and the making of gated communities, higher rents, and the squeezing out of the working class. This isn't Washington Heights. As a stakeholder, she emphatically, strongly, and with unwavering conviction objects to this proposal and asks that the board postpone it until the greater community can be notified properly. She thanked the board for their attention and their time.

Janice K. Bryant who said that she lives on Pinehurst near 187<sup>th</sup> Street spoke next. She has been in Washington Heights since 1995 and she loves the neighborhood. Ms. Bryant said that the district proposal was very disturbing to her because she knows a lot of the people and the history of this place. She used to brag about knowing people who lived near the subway Fort Washington who were Communists; this area was a Communist stronghold. She was so happy to be able to share that with people and she had a dear friend who has moved out to Queens because she couldn't afford to stay here. Her friend was Leslie Cagan, who was a very active advocate for peace movements all over the world. The neighborhood had Black people calling it home including Jarvis Tyner who used to be the Vice Chair of the Communist Party and lived right down the street from the subway. Jarvis Tyner was the brother of McCoy Tyner.

One of the things that really disturbed Ms. Bryant when she first moved up here was seeing Holocaust survivors with tattoos on their arms. She recalls seeing them in Bennett Park. She said that it is important that we don't forget this history. She said that she is not going to be going around here championing other folks' cultures but that really is a part of what makes this place so special.

The final speaker was Afua Preston, who is a third-generation homeowner. She is also the president of the Residents of Sylvan Terrace. Sylvan Terrace is a part of the Jumel Terrace Historic District, which is adjacent to the Jumel Mansion. She agreed with what everyone has said but also wanted to suggest that the board consider redrawing the proposed district boundaries by removing the Jumel Terrace Historic District, which, aside from taking the land from the Lenape, has been historically Black and white, not to mention 555 Edgecombe Avenue (home of Paul Robeson); this specific area has never been a Dominican historical area anyway. The nomination proposal is exclusive and goes against everything DEI. There are many, many ethnic groups within Washington Heights. She asked the board to redraw the boundaries and then there might be some kind of communication and some kind of agreement on that. She added that one specific ethnic group does not describe the whole area.

Before moving to the discussion and comments from the board Chelsea noted a few items. The board was provided a joint letter from State Senator Robert Jackson and State Assemblymember Al Taylor requesting a postponement of the proposal. The board was also given letters of support received from U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat, State Assemblymembers Manny De Los Santos and George Alvarez, and several City Council members as well. All of these letters were provided to the board prior to today's meeting.

Doug asked for comments and questions from the board. Wint Aldrich asked for clarification regarding the boundaries that run along the east side of Broadway. He asked what happens on the west side of Broadway and wondered if there were no Dominicans in that area or if that area was already listed in another district. Chelsea said that the district boundary follows Broadway but in the area around the Columbia Presbyterian Medical complex (between 165<sup>th</sup> to 168<sup>th</sup>) the district excludes both sides of Broadway due to new development and intrusions. Also, in the southernmost part of the district (between 155<sup>th</sup> and 158<sup>th</sup>) we have not extended the boundary to the area west of Broadway as this area represents a different pattern of development as part of the Audubon Park Historic District that was presented at last quarter's meeting. Wint said that there is an integrity to what's been proposed here in terms both of architecture and land development on the one hand and, on the other, settlement by the Dominicans and, as we have heard, other communities previously. He said that it seems to him that in creating this, and we're hearing this from the controversy that's been generated, we're trying to do two separate things that may not be comfortable in one document, in one nomination. One thing is celebrating the developing architecture until 50 years ago and the other thing is what has been more recently called "place matters" cultural heritage

and maybe we are trying to do too much in one nomination. Wint added that he is just wondering how we're going to respond to this very genuine concern from the community, even though maybe the numbers aren't that many either in terms of opposition by property owners or by renters and residents in the community but maybe we should be thinking more about this because it's a conflation of two objectives worthy but in one nomination.

Gretchen said that this makes her think very much about Harlem because Harlem is a community that is considered the capital of Black America because of its current history but it is built on a Dutch community, a German community, and a Jewish community. She wondered what the nomination for Harlem looked like if it had much more context because this one, it seemed to her, didn't have enough context. While it was a huge nomination, it didn't have sufficient context for the earlier history of the neighborhood, especially listening to what today's commenters were saying. This is what makes her a little uncomfortable about the nomination. She wondered if we could layer historic districts on top of one another and that this is kind of going with what Wint was saying. She also said that it sounds as if there were a lot of Holocaust survivors living here and that that's certainly part of the history of this neighborhood, the architecture is part of the history of this neighborhood, all of those layers and New York being the colony, the original colony after the native people were here. This is really about all of this diversity from the beginning, all these layers of people, and you can't leave that out.

Doug said that he wanted to push back a little bit by noting that this history has not been left out of the nomination, everything that Gretchen just mentioned is in the nomination. Gretchen responded by saying that this history was treated more like the prelude. She wanted to know how the Harlem nomination was set up.

Doug commended the scholarship that went into the Criterion G exceptional significance statement. He thought the case was well made even though it's not 50 years yet; he felt that a strong case was made for this to be a Dominican enclave that deserves celebration. This is not to tear down the other ethnic groups that lived there and whose shoulders we're standing on. He feels it is a good case for a Dominican neighborhood.

Chelsea said in response to Gretchen's question that when this nomination came to us, we thought carefully about those various layers of history, and we looked at previous nominations to help guide us through the process. The East Harlem and Central Harlem historic district nominations were two examples that we followed. These nominations each focus on different ethnic groups depending on which one you read. East Harlem, for example, focuses primarily on Puerto Ricans in El Barrio and if you look at nominations like Chinatown-Little Italy, which was nominated in 2009, it takes a very similar approach to what we took for the Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District in that it references the Irish, the Germans, the Russians in a section of

the nomination for a couple pages and then dives deeper into the history of the cultural groups that were recognized in that nomination itself. This is the same approach that we took with the Washington Heights nomination.

Kristin said she had some questions and or statements that she was hoping could be verified. This is, in part, for the audience to make sure there's an understanding. She said to forgive her if she says very obvious things, but she is doing this intentionally. This particular nomination is not for the entirety of Washington Heights, correct? Chelsea responded that statement is correct. Kristin said that this nomination has no bearing on the name Washington Heights for the people who live there, correct? Chelsea said that that was correct. Kristin thinks that this is very important too because she fears that that is some of the concern, that this will change the name of their community and that is not what this body (board) is about, correct? Chelsea responded, correct. These were Kristin's two key points. She added to the discussion that should the nomination proceed forward now or later that she would like to discuss the name because, in her opinion, including the name Washington Heights is part of the confusion. This is because the district does not encompass all of Washington Heights. She also recommends removing the word "cultural" from the district name because the use of that word might cause another layer of confusion. Kristin noticed in some of the letters we received as well as the statement read on behalf of Dr. Hernandez that the district was referred to as the Dominican Historic District. She said that there are many layers and perspectives here but she would love to see a discussion about what the district name should be because it connotes different things in people's minds.

Molly asked if the vote on this nomination were to be postponed, have we gotten any information from the community, from the nominators, from the researchers, from politicians about what a next step might look like or has there been a suggestion about what a positive more inclusive or next version of this might be. Chelsea answered that she didn't know if we have gotten into conversations or the details of how to revise the nomination other than more content. Chelsea added that it might be more public meetings and we would probably ask to have some sort of sponsor for those meetings and someone to facilitate those conversations. She is not entirely sure what the additions to the nomination would be. As we know, the nomination comes to us from the Dominican Studies Institute, and they undertook an extensive amount of research and writing to prepare the documentation. Chelsea said that, if at any point another cultural group or anyone came to us with the research to argue for significance within the same boundary, we would then evaluate to the same degree that we've looked at the current nomination.

Tom said that his concern is that New York is everchanging. In five years a Ukrainian population or a Somalian population or another immigrant group might move here. We've seen that just in the last 20 or 30 years and that's the beauty of New York. What troubles Tom is that each of the people who spoke in opposition to nomination said that they found out about the proposal in a roundabout way and whenever that happens,

you're going to have a large block of people that are going to feel disenfranchised or that they didn't get enough information. When you hear a woman say that she loves this community and its diversity, then that's a value that I hope we get more of in this country. That is the future of this country and to see any of that blemished in this particular instance then it is just a sample of a bigger issue in the United States in general. Tom added that he would like to see that we give it more thorough thought and that it seems to him this is a train that's moving a little too fast and we might want to take more time to reflect. This review is an educational process and I'd hate to see that somehow missed in this process.

Carol Clark observed that only the individuals who are owners of property get notified but the people living here are principally all renters. She knows the neighborhood and it has a predominantly Dominican feeling to it as was shown in the images today. In walking there it has often been identified as more of a Dominican neighborhood and the neighborhood in the larger uphill side to the west of it is occupied on higher ground and has had typically a different census tract representation. She doesn't disagree with what has been said at all. She feels that everyone has expressed really interesting points but the other thing that she picked up on from the information that Chelsea provided is that there had been a really stinging situation that occurred about five years ago when an elected official, who is now in Congress, advocated for an official name change of Washington Heights to a Spanish place name. That proposal caused a deeply embittered disagreement in this community. The proposed name change, which did not take place, was received with a great deal of divisiveness and unhappiness so it appears to her that with this nomination it is totally understandable that the people in the community are confused about it and our procedures. She is in the camp of those on the board who want to take a pause and allow things to be considered, further discussed, and described more fully than the SHPO has been able to do thus far. Carol said that we may discover that the source of the tremendous concern and the emotional nature of that concern dates back to this other grievance that divided the community so severely.

Jay wanted to know how the National Park Service deals with things like this. He asked about their standard for naming historic districts. Chelsea said the naming of the district went through a long process of consideration over the past four years. We were in touch with the National Park Service specifically about the name and it was very important to the sponsor to have Dominican in the title. It had come in under a different name and we worked to revise it, in part, to reflect the fact that the district occupies a large section of Washington Heights. In terms of the National Park Service's requirements, it should have a tie to the content of the nomination itself, which, in this case, focuses on Ethnic Heritage/Hispanic Dominican, and having Dominican in the name made sense to us.

Gretchen said that clearly this is a Dominican neighborhood with the largest number of Dominicans in the city and a very important history. But she wanted to know what could

be done with the nomination should another cultural group within the same boundaries want to tell their history. Would it be possible to amend the nomination? Chelsea said yes that we do amendments to nominations all the time, and that we could amend this nomination. Doug added that nominations can always be modified, including their boundaries. Gretchen asked if this was a historic district or a cultural district. Chelsea said that it was a historic district. Gretchen asked why, then, did we call this a *cultural* historic district? Chelsea said that the word cultural is used for its association with the Dominican culture.

Jay asked if another cultural group had come to us prior to the Dominicans that that group could have proposed a different district name. Chelsea said that yes, so long as it relates to the history and the contents of the nomination document itself and is justified and evaluated as eligible.

Doug said that in the context of Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance he thinks that we all agree that the district is a Dominican enclave that is something that deserves celebration. This is not to say that celebrating the Dominican history in any way tears down the history of the other ethnic groups in the neighborhood.

Wayne noted that Jay raised an interesting point about other cultural groups but, in the case of this district in Washington Heights, that the area is predominantly Dominican. He said that he supposed you could call the district after another cultural group but he felt that in reality, it would not truly reflect the nature of the district, which is predominantly Dominican.

Gretchen then said that Native Americans who do not live there can't represent themselves in this district because there aren't any to prepare the research and to write it even though we know that it was their land.

Wint said that we shouldn't be hung up on the Washington Heights nomenclature even if the congressman wants that term used, really this is on the other side of Broadway from Washington Heights historically and it was where the Battle of Harlem Heights occurred and that is the Morris Jumel ridge along there and Sugar Hill, he guesses. But it is also largely Dominican now so maybe we should look into calling it the Harlem Heights Dominican District. But he is sure that the name is not the only concern that the public has expressed. He felt that we ought to be able to get beyond some of the limitations of nomenclature.

Molly said that since we're still talking about the nomenclature and the naming, she just wanted to make sure that the examples of the East Harlem and Central Harlem historic districts, even if they focus on a particular cultural group and that group is not represented in the title and alternatively the Chinatown-Little Italy Historic District, that in these cases these are actually the place names of these neighborhoods. She felt that it is important to make that distinction as it is germane to this conversation.

Doug called for a motion to accept the nomination as written or to make a change to it. We are at the point where we need a motion. He clarified that there can be a motion to move it forward as written, there could be alternative motions for changes to the title (name of district), or there could be a motion that specifies that additional research is needed to the nomination. Wint added there could also be a motion asking for additional public meetings. Doug reiterated what Wint said that yes, there could be additional public meetings, if required.

Tom said that the local people seem to need to get together because it is just going to be an ongoing bad situation. He thinks that in every situation like this that the local community really needs to sort this out. He said that we are sitting here and his first reaction was this proposal was fine but, as he listened and found out that people did not get notifications, that we don't want to make a good situation bad or have someone feel they won or they lost but he said that he would defer to our chair who has much greater knowledge on these things than he does. Tom added that to him that it looks like whatever we do someone is going to be offended or disenfranchised so he doesn't think that this should be the last chapter in this discussion. He said that we should let people think this through. He asked Doug if there was a reason that this has to be done today or if there was pressure on us to advance the nomination today.

Doug said that he doesn't want to succumb to any pressure other than the quality of what's written on that National Register form and our charge of reviewing it and forwarding a motion today. Doug said that he would like for the board to consider the proposal on its merits and on the scholarship of the nomination. Doug said that we are not renaming anything and that nothing in the nomination is cast in stone. It can all be modified later. He added that the notifications go to property owners as those are the people with standing in the district in terms of the people who actually own the property and have a say in this process specified by the National Register. Tom said that what Doug is saying is that based on the merits and on the scholarship that's been brought to us today, that Doug feels that we should move this forward. Doug responded yes to Tom.

Wayne asked Doug as to where was this division or preparation deficient? Doug said that he didn't see any deficiencies and Wayne agreed with him. Doug said one could quibble about violating the 50-year rule, but the nomination applied the Criterion Consideration G in that case for exceptional significance and made a really good case with good scholarship for this being the historical reality of this property at this point in time.

Tom made a motion to move the nomination forward based on the chair's scholarly and professional advice. Doug asked for a second.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Wayne Goodman

Abstentions: Molly Garfinkel

In favor: Carol Clark, Jay DiLorenzo, Wayne Goodman, Tom Maggs, Doug Perrelli

Opposed: Wint Aldrich, Kristin Herron, Erika Krieger, Jennifer Lemak, Gretchen Sorin

**Vote: 5 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained**

As there was no majority, the vote did not carry. Doug then asked for comments from Daniel Mackay, Deputy SHPO.

Daniel thanked the board for the time and attention given to this nomination and he appreciates the staff members of the NR team and the senior staff team that have worked really hard to keep the board current with rapidly developing and certainly highly energized correspondence. There has been additional correspondence already directed to the National Park Service Keeper of the Register. As Chelsea noted we have heard from each of the state legislators and Congressman Espaillat's office. Daniel appreciates that Doug has identified, as have others, that some of the issues that have been raised as concerns, while legitimate for public discussion, don't necessarily fall within the boundaries of what the board must consider, specifically, a number of concerns raised by the community at large above and beyond property owners in the district. He thinks that the ultimate name and the opportunity to build this nomination further are significant opportunities still to be addressed. Noting the five (in favor) to five (opposed) to one vote (abstained) at this . . .

Doug then asked to interrupt Daniel. Doug said that he was being asked to call for another vote from board members sitting near him. Daniel asked if there would be a motion to allow that or wanted to know how that would work. Tom made a motion that we vote again on the (original) motion that was made. Doug said that we have a motion to vote again on that motion and that he will second the motion. The board secretary, Kathy Howe, asked that Doug please restate the motion. Doug responded that the motion is to accept the district as written. Kathy restated that the motion was made by Tom and seconded by Doug.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Doug Perrelli

Abstentions: Molly Garfinkel

In favor: Carol Clark, Jay DiLorenzo, Wayne Goodman, Tom Maggs, Doug Perrelli,

Opposed: Wint Aldrich, Kristin Herron, Erika Krieger, Jennifer Lemak, Gretchen Sorin

**Vote: 5 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained**

Daniel, noting the stalemate, said that he appreciates the board's deliberations. He also appreciates the time and attention given in preparation for this meeting. He added that he appreciates the time and attention given to the significant additional material provided to the board. He appreciates the time and attention given to the speakers who participated remotely and offered their additional public comments. He appreciates the

conversation and each member's service on the board. He noted that each member's service on the board is advisory to the Commissioner and, in his place, himself. To address this 5-5-1 stalemate he recognized the board's significant contributions to discussion and he informed the board that he is going to move this nomination to the National Park Service for National Register consideration. He restated that in recognition of the five votes in support from the board, the five votes opposing from the board, and the one vote abstaining, the recommendations and input of the board to the Commissioner and, through the delegation of authority to himself as Deputy Commissioner, that the board's advice is advisory. We don't often acknowledge that because there's obviously been such great synchronicity over decades here but, to address this tie, Daniel is taking action with his authority as Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation and in his role as supporting the work of the board to advance this nomination for National Register consideration.

**Nomination 18: West Brighton Houses, Staten Island, Richmond County**

Kath LaFrank

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History, Politics/Government

Period of Significance: ca. 1960-1965

Kath said that we have a letter of support from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. This is a tax credit project.

Discussion: Wint said that West Brighton Houses is a sad story. Gretchen agreed that it is a very sad *American* story.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 19: Kingston Barrel Factory, Kingston, Ulster County**

Kath LaFrank

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Industry, Social History

Period of Significance: ca. 1917-1954

Kath said that this is our second prohibition-related nomination, noting that the board might remember the Illinois Alcohol Company nomination, a tax credit project from a few years ago. The Kingston Barrel Factory has an approved Part One and Part Two. We have very enthusiastic letters of support from Kingston's Historic Preservation Commission and the Mayor of Kingston.

Discussion: Tom commented on Legs Diamond meeting his demise on Dove Street in Albany, where two Albany police officers were sent up to have a chat with him but Legs ended up with several bullet holes in him. Kath said that Legs Diamond had escaped assassination attempts many times.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Molly Garfinkel

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 20: Montgomery St.-Columbus Circle Historic District Boundary Expansion/Boundary Reduction, Syracuse, Onondaga County**

Kath LaFrank

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Commerce, Community Planning & Development

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1846-1975

Kath commended Ryan Cameron of Ryan LLC who did an excellent job preparing this nomination. She and Ryan worked closely with Syracuse Preservation Planner Kate Auwaerter on the nomination development. Syracuse is a CLG; we received letters of support from the mayor and the Preservation Commission. The commission noted that it reached out to all the owners individually in addition to our notification letters. We received a letter of support from one property owner.

Discussion: Kath asked Ryan Cameron if he had anything that he would like to say. Ryan said that he had nothing further to add but he thanked Kath for all her help and assistance with the nomination. He said that it was a pleasure working with Kath and Kate. Molly said that this was a wonderfully written nomination.

Motion to approve: Molly Garfinkel

Second: Kristin Herron

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

[Note: Board member Jennifer Lemak had to leave at 2:30 due to another commitment so the number of board members present went from eleven to ten.]

**Nomination 21: Center Square/Hudson Park Historic District Additional Documentation, Albany, Albany County**

Kath LaFrank

Criteria/Area of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1849-1957

Kath said that this is a tax credit-related project. The nomination was prepared by Preservation Studios. We have a letter of support from the Albany Preservation Commission.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Tom Maggs

Second: Carol Clark

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 22: Ithaca Downtown Historic District Additional Documentation, Ithaca, Tompkins County**

Kath LaFrank

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

A: Social History/LGBT, Social History/Women's History

Criterion Consideration G: less than 50 years

Period of Significance: 1984-1993

Kath acknowledged that the extensive and excellent documentation was prepared by Jeffry Iovannone who, since preparing this nomination, joined our Survey and National Register Unit. The City of Ithaca is a CLG; we received letters of support from the Preservation Commission and the mayor.

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Molly Garfinkel

Second: Doug Perrelli

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 10 in favor, 0 opposed**

**Nomination 23: Schuyler Lake Stone Church, Schuyler Lake, Otsego County**

Erin Czernecki

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance:

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Wayne Goodman

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 9 in favor, 0 opposed**

[Note: Carol Clark stepped out of the room so the number of board members present for this vote went from ten to nine.]

**Nomination 24: Joseph Peck House, New Lisbon, Otsego County**

Erin Czernecki

Criteria/Areas of Significance:

C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1852

Discussion: none.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

**Vote: Recommended 9 in favor, 0 opposed**

Before moving to the Deputy Commissioner's Report, Gretchen requested to make one quick comment regarding the use of terminology in nominations. She is concerned that we seem to keep perpetuating the ideas and we keep using the word slum clearance and still salvageable for urban renewal. These are historical terms, but we are using them as if they are current and as if they are meaningful today. She thinks that they are racist and not meaningful, and she wishes that we could stop using them in our nominations. Gretchen said that slum clearance was something that was used to talk about those neighborhoods that were considered slums but there was perfectly good housing in many of those neighborhoods but the city would say we got to clear out these slums, we got to get rid of these Black people. She said that we can't keep using that language in the nominations. Doug asked what the other term was and Gretchen said it was the term still salvageable neighborhood. She said that those are neighborhoods where they did urban renewal. We're still using that language as if it's accurate current language. She said that these terms should only be used with quotation marks.

**Deputy Commissioner's Report**

Daniel Mackay

Daniel shared several announcements regarding additions to our staff at NYS SHPO/DHP:

In the past quarter we have seen significant additions to the Technical unit staff. Ashley Barret, joins us from the GA SHPO. Theresa Moriarty, previously with the NPS Training Center. Lisa Petruzzelli, who has held positions with the Affordable Housing Partnership and with our local colleagues at the Historic Albany Foundation. Additionally, the National Register unit has welcomed Olivia Holland, who is a recent graduate of the

Pratt Institute in New York, and Sara Everson, our presenter for the Washington Heights HD, who transferred from a seasonal role into a full-time position with the Register program.

He also had an absence to note. As the members of the State Review Board are aware, the preservation community and the DHP have lost a dedicated colleague and advocate for our cultural heritage, Chuck Vandrei, who died in late June. Daniel attended his memorial service, which was an exceptional experience. Chuck's daughters and their spouses were instrumental in creating the service and it was really quite special. Numerous senior DEC staff attended and additional staff from the DHP also attended.

As noted in communication from NYS DEC, "Chuck was one of the agency's foremost experts on cultural resources and historic preservation and his impact on cultural resources is immeasurable. Contributions through the New York State Archaeological Council in the development of standards for cultural resource investigations helped shaped the outcome of hundreds of projects across the state. Just last month, Chuck joined Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar and an enthusiastic gathering of local and state officials to celebrate his work and bless the final resting place at Lake George Battlefield Park for the remains of more than 40 Revolutionary War-era individuals found in unmarked graves. He received a Commissioner's Meritorious Service Award, recognition from the U.S. Department of Defense and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and ongoing praise for helping honor those who died. In 2023, he received the Founder's Award from the New York Archaeological Council and in 2015, received a Project Achievement Award from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for preserving Camp Santanoni."

Chuck was a mentor to many of us at the board and staff level, a true collaborator, and a staunch supporter of the mission of DHP. His contributions to this board will be deeply missed.

NYS DEC Acting Commissioner Sean Mahar named Peter Reuben as Agency Preservation Officer for DEC and to act as the agency's liaison to OPRHP and the State Board for Historic Preservation last week. Mr. Reuben leads DEC's Office of Indian Nation Affairs, which works to address environmental concerns, cultural resources, and advance shared knowledge through consultation with State and Federally recognized Indian Nations. We look forward to Peter joining the board's work.

ACHP Char Sara Bronin invited NY SHPO to participate in a panel discussion on the relationship between affordable housing and historic preservation. Highlights of Daniel's remarks included our partnership with NYCHA and other public housing authorities to utilize the historic tax credit programs, as well as the successful integration of the historic tax credit programs in delivering privately funded affordable housing development. Daniel said that at this point over 40% of our historic tax credit projects have some form of affordable housing.

The New York State 250th Commemoration Commission will hold its second meeting in October. At this meeting, the draft Strategic Plan, in development by commission staff and members this summer, will be presented for adoption. The October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be hosted by Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor, NY (SRB visited in June 2023) and will include a remote access location for downstate members of the Commission (and the public) hosted at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Joy Bivins, Director, is a member of the Commission. NYS SED is hosting the website for the Commission and further details will be available as the meeting date nears.

Canal Corporation Director Brian Stratton and First Gentleman William Hochul convened the first meeting of the Erie Canal Bicentennial Commission in late August. Daniel attended on behalf of the Commissioner and the meeting shared a wide range of plans and aspirations, across the canal corridor and from Albany to New York City. Already locked in as a component of the commemoration is that Buffalo will host the World Canals Conference in September 2025.

As you know, 2024 is being celebrated as the State Park system's centennial year. Among the many components of the celebration was the regional PBS affiliate WMHT producing an hour-long documentary "From Land to Legacy: 100 Years of NYS Parks." The documentary debuted last night and will be broadcast by multiple PBS affiliates throughout the fall. It is also being webcast.

Of particular note is the extensive involvement of multiple Division for Historic Preservation staff that worked together to inform the production. And, delightfully, multiple Division and Bureau of Historic Sites staff are featured in the production, along with extensive footage of the historic site system and Peebles Island facilities in support of the site and park system. The Division's and Bureau's work and capabilities have never before been so prominently featured.

Commissioner Randy Simons joined Secretary of State Walter Mosley and senior NOAA officials at the ribbon cutting for the Nation's 16<sup>th</sup> National Marine Sanctuary, the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary, comprising 1,700 square miles of waters. OPRHP and DOS will co-manage the sanctuary via a Memorandum of Agreement signed at the ceremony.

The designation will bring significant research and interpretive investments to the marine heritage assets along and in the lake. NOAA has already hired a marine archaeologist to support sanctuary operations and already detailed a research vessel to the lake to confirm known wreck sites, in the process confirming four newly located historic shipwrecks on the lake.

The Division for Historic Preservation recently received \$750,000 dollars, the maximum award, from the latest NPS Semi-quintennial Program grant round. OPRHP has received funding in every grant round; this latest grant will primarily address structural issues at the Hasbrouck House at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh. I should also note that that site is hosting one of the agency's initial Semi-Quintennial commemoration events the weekend of September 20-22, featuring a replica of Washington's campaign tent and related interpretation.

Daniel said that we are "batting a thousand" with various NPS grant applications including the Semi-quintennial grants and Underrepresented Community grants. We have new capacity within the Division to allow us to be proactive in applying for these grants. He said that we should put together a presentation on these grant initiatives as they have added up to millions of dollars for historic preservation projects in just the past two to three years.

We added 38 businesses to the Historic Business Preservation Registry this past quarter. The Business Registry now has a total of 218 businesses and our website hosting this program has an ever-fascinating array of histories for viewing.

Daniel concluded by adding to Chelsea's announcements of staff departures. Jen and Tabitha, we will miss your respective contributions to our Division's work and hope your time here with NY SHPO will fundamentally inform your successes in your respective next professional settings

### **New Business**

There was no new business to report.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Maggs and seconded by Gretchen Sorin. The motion was carried by unanimous consent and the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by board secretary Kathy Howe.