ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 7558 Amboy Road, Tottenville, Staten Island

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was completed in 1862 for a new congregation formed in 1856 in the growing village of Tottenville. This location at the corner of Amboy Road and Swinnerton Street was more convenient than that provided by its parent church, the venerable Bethel Methodist Church, established in Richmond Valley soon after Bishop Francis Asbury's preaching mission there in 1806.

The center section of the gabled brick facade is articulated by a triply-recessed blind round arch trimmed with contrasting coursing; it frames bifurcated round-arched stained-glass windows which surmount a round-arched portal. The smaller flanking windows are similarly framed. The gable cornice and the returns on the face and flanks of the facade are supported on arched corbel tables, a characteristic feature of the Romanesque Revival style. A bell tower was once located at the peak of the facade gable and the original projecting entrance porch has been removed. The side facades of the church have tall round-arched stained-glass windows set within recessed rectangular panels. The contrast between the relatively unadorned side walls and the complexly articulated main facade is heightened by the deeper hue of the facade bricks.

According to the authors of Staten Island and its People (1930), Charles W. Leng and William T. Davis, a new building for Sunday school purposes was built in 1883. It has not yet been determined if the Sunday school building is the present central section of the building -- which appears in c. 1898 photograph -- extending along Swinnerton Avenue, or the small freestanding wood-frame structure at the rear of the lot. The rear section of the church building is a twentieth-century addition. The L-shaped site is occupied by a parking lot adjacent to the church.

When dedicated, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was a building quite unlike the earlier Methodist churches on Staten Island because of its masonry construction and its relatively sophisticated design. Today the church remains a striking feature of Tottenville's town center.

Date 10 / 1 / 11

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

(212) 553-1100

If you wish to speak, please complete and return to the person at the Speaker's Information Desk

Item # 3 *LP#* _____

Item Name St. Paul's Methodist Church

In favor of Designation ☒ *Against Designation* ☐ *Unsure of Position* ☐

(Print) Name ~~EDWARD KAUFMAN~~ CLIFT SEFERLIS

Mailing Address _____

Representing MAS

##########

If you would rather leave a statement, complete and return to the person at the Speaker's Information Desk, or mail the form to the Commission at the above address

For LPC use only: testified? y__/ n__

THE MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY
1892 CENTENNIAL 1992

Testimony before the
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Designation Hearing
October 1, 1991

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(7558 Amboy Road)

My name is Clift Seferlis and I am here on behalf of the Municipal Art Society whose Preservation Committee is in favor of the designation of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church. With its relatively sophisticated Romanesque Revival design and solid masonry construction, this building strikes a surprisingly urbane note in this still rural and isolated community.

St. Paul's clearly represents growth for the Methodist congregation formed in Tottenville in 1856, some six years before the building of the church. Previous to this date the home base was in Richmond Valley, where its parent church, Bethel Methodist, had been operating since the first decade of the ninteenth century. The more convenient location further enhanced the progress of the village of Tottenville into a thriving community. Architecturally and socially, therefore, St. Paul's has reigned as a true local landmark, as it does today, and the Municipal Art Society recommends that you grant its designation.

THE MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW YORK 457 MADISON AVENUE NY NY 10022 TEL: (212) 935-3960 FAX: (212) 753-1816

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 15, 1991

Joseph P. Trivisonno, R.A.,
Staten Island Borough Superintendent
Department of Buildings
Borough Hall
Staten Island, New York 10301

Dear Superintendent Trivisonno:

Attached is a list of the items in the Borough of Staten Island that have been calendared for consideration as New York City Landmarks at a public hearing on October 1, 1991. The BIS computer has been updated to reflect the calendared nature of these items.

Sincerely yours,

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Joseph P. Trivisonno, Staten Island Borough Superintendent
Department of Buildings

St. George Historic District

Horton's Row: 411, 413, 415, 417 Westervelt Avenue, St. George
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lots: 25/5, 4, 3, 1

August Schoverling House, 344 Westervelt Avenue, St. George
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 38/35

Middletown Township District School 2 (later Public School 15)
98 Grant Street, Tompkinsville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 506/81

Westfield Township District School 7 (later Public School 4)
4210 Arthur Kill Road, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7315/14

Nicholas Killmeyer Store and Residence, 4321 Arthur Kill Road, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7400/1

St. Peter's German Evangelical Church at Kreischerville
(now Free Magyar Reformed Church), Parish Hall and Rectory,
19-23 Winant Place and 25 Winant Place, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lots: 7400/171 & 166

Kreischerville Workers' Houses: 71 & 73, 75 & 77, 81 & 83, 85 & 87 Kreischer Street, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lots: 7590/131, 134, 136, 137 & 138 and the portions of sidewalk and tree lawn immediately adjacent to these buildings, extending to the roadbed of Kresicher Street.

122 Androvette Street House, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7596/70

Westfield Township District School 5 (now Public School 1 Annex)
58 Summit Street, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7898/1

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Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7899/1

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Drake-Dehart House, 134 Main Street, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 8020/63

Rutan-Journeay House, 7647 Amboy Road, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 8050/13

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 15, 1991

Ms. Lenore Norman,
Director of Intergovermental Affairs
N.Y.C. Department of Buildings
60 Hudson Street, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Dear Ms. Norman:

Attached is a list of the items that have been calendared for consideration as New York City Landmarks at a public hearing on October 1, 1991. The BIS computer has been updated to reflect the calendared nature of these items.

Sincerely yours,

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 15, 1991

Hon. Rudolph J. Rinaldi
Commissioner, Dept. of Buildings
60 Hudson Street, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Rinaldi:

Attached is a list of the items that have been calendared for consideration as New York City Landmarks at a public hearing on October 1, 1991. The BIS computer has been updated to reflect the calendared nature of these items.

Sincerely yours,

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Rudolph J. Rinaldi, Commissioner, Department of Buildings

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 15, 1991

Richard L. Schaffer, Chair
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

Attached is a list of the items that will be considered for designation as New York City Landmarks at a public hearing on October 1, 1991.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed designations or the public hearing, please call Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128.

Sincerely yours,

Merin E. Urban

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Richard L. Schaffer, Chair, City Planning Commission

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 20, 1991

Guy V. Molinari
Borough President of Staten Island
Staten Island Borough Hall
Staten Island, New York 10301

Re: see attached list

Dear Borough President Molinari:

On Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, Manhattan, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider the proposed designations of the above listed properties as New York City Landmarks.

You or your representative are cordially invited to attend the proceedings and offer any testimony concerning the proposed designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128. Please call Ms. Marion Cleaver at (212) 553-1136 before September 30, 1991, to arrange for speaking time. Or if you prefer, you may send us a statement which will be read into the record on October 1, 1991. If you desire to FAX your comments, the Commission's FAX number is (212) 964-2409.

Sincerely yours,

Merin E. Urban

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Borough President of Staten Island Guy V. Molinari

St. George Historic District

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 20, 1991

Alfred Brumme, Chair
Staten Island Community Board 3
277 Nelson Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10308

Re: See enclosed list

Dear Chairman Brumme:

On Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, Manhattan, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider the proposed designations of the above listed properties as New York City Landmarks.

You or your representative are cordially invited to attend the proceedings and offer any testimony concerning the proposed designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128. Please call Ms. Marion Cleaver at (212) 553-1136 before September 30, 1991, to arrange for speaking time. Or if you prefer, you may send us a statement which will be read into the record on October 1, 1991. If you desire to FAX your comments, the Commission's FAX number is (212) 964-2409.

Sincerely yours,

Merin E. Urban

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Staten Island Community Board 3, Alfred Brumme, Chair

Westfield Township District School 7 (later Public School 4)
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 20, 1991

Hon. Alfred C. Cervillo, III
88 New Dorp Plaza
Staten Island, NY 10306

Re: See enclosed list

Dear Council Member Cervillo:

On Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, Manhattan, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider the proposed designations of the above listed properties as New York City Landmarks.

You or your representative are cordially invited to attend the proceedings and offer any testimony concerning the proposed designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128. Please call Ms. Marion Cleaver at (212) 553-1136 before September 30, 1991, to arrange for speaking time. Or if you prefer, you may send us a statement which will be read into the record on October 1, 1991. If you desire to FAX your comments, the Commission's FAX number is (212) 964-2409.

Sincerely yours,

Merin E. Urban

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Council Member Alfred C. Cervillo, III

Westfield Township District School 7 (later Public School 4)
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 20, 1991

Hon. John J. Marchi
358 St. Marks Place
Staten Island, NY 10301

Re: See enclosed list

Dear State Senator Marchi:

On Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, Manhattan, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider the proposed designations of the above listed properties as New York City Landmarks.

You or your representative are cordially invited to attend the proceedings and offer any testimony concerning the proposed designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128. Please call Ms. Marion Cleaver at (212) 553-1136 before September 30, 1991, to arrange for speaking time. Or if you prefer, you may send us a statement which will be read into the record on October 1, 1991. If you desire to FAX your comments, the Commission's FAX number is (212) 964-2409.

Sincerely yours,

Merin Elizabeth Urban
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MEU:MGC:hpc
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List for State Senator John J. Marchi

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 20, 1991

Hon. Susan Molinari
1305 73rd Street
Brooklyn, NY 11228

Re: See enclosed list

Dear Congresswoman Molinari:

On Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, Manhattan, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider the proposed designations of the above listed properties as New York City Landmarks.

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Sincerely yours,

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Congresswoman Susan Molinari

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225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 20, 1991

Hon. Robert A. Straniere
182 Rose Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306

Re: See enclosed list

Dear Assemblyman Straniere:

On Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, Manhattan, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider the proposed designations of the above listed properties as New York City Landmarks.

You or your representative are cordially invited to attend the proceedings and offer any testimony concerning the proposed designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128. Please call Ms. Marion Cleaver at (212) 553-1136 before September 30, 1991, to arrange for speaking time. Or if you prefer, you may send us a statement which will be read into the record on October 1, 1991. If you desire to FAX your comments, the Commission's FAX number is (212) 964-2409.

Sincerely yours,

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.

List for Assemblyman Robert A. Straniere

Westfield Township District School 7 (later Public School 4)
4210 Arthur Kill Road, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7315/14

Nicholas Killmeyer Store and Residence, 4321 Arthur Kill Road, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7400/1

St. Peter's German Evangelical Church at Kreischerville
(now Free Magyar Reformed Church), Parish Hall and Rectory,
19-23 Winant Place and 25 Winant Place, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lots: 7400/171 & 166

Kreischerville Workers' Houses: 71 & 73, 75 & 77, 81 & 83, 85 & 87 Kreischer Street, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lots: 7590/131, 134, 136, 137 & 138 and the portions of sidewalk and tree lawn immediately adjacent to these buildings, extending to the roadbed of Kresicher Street.

122 Androvette Street House, Charleston
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7596/70

Westfield Township District School 5 (now Public School 1 Annex)
58 Summit Street, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7898/1

New York Public Library: Tottenville Branch, 7448 Amboy Road, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7899/1

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, 7558 Amboy Road, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 7915/1

Drake-Dehart House, 134 Main Street, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 8020/63

Rutan-Journeay House, 7647 Amboy Road, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Tax Map Block/Lot: 8050/13

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007
(212) 553-1100

August 15, 1991

Robert R. Paugh Treas.,
St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church
160 Butler Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10307

Re: St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church
7558 Amboy Road, Tottenville
Landmark Site: Staten Island Tax Map Block 7915, Lot 1

Dear Mr. Paugh:

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency mandated to designate and preserve individual buildings, historic districts, interiors, and scenic sites that have special historic, architectural, cultural or aesthetic significance.

In accordance with Section 25-313 (formerly Section 207-12.0 of Chapter 8-A) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 1991, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the 23rd Floor Conference Room of the offices of the Landmarks Preservation Commission at 225 Broadway, Manhattan, with respect to the proposed designation of the above listed property. You or your representative are invited to attend the hearing and present any information or testimony relating to the proposed designation. Public hearings are intended to provide a forum for opinions to be voiced regarding proposed designations by interested parties such as owners of potential Landmarks, affected community boards, public officials, community groups and members of the general public. We hope you will participate in these proceedings.

Public notice of the hearing identifying the proposed Landmark and its site will appear in the City Record of September 17, 1991, and each day (other than Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) thereafter until and including October 1, 1991.

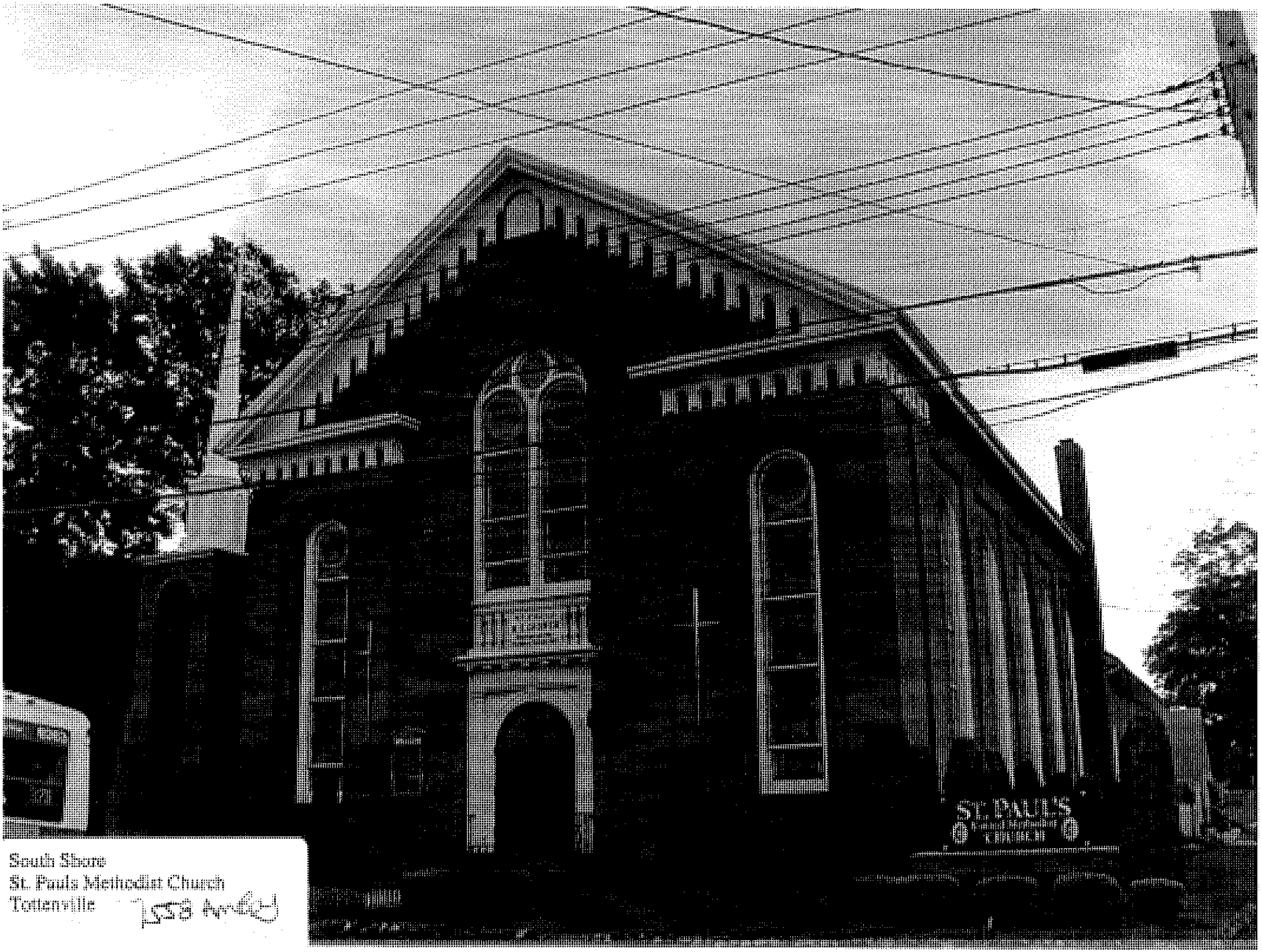
Contact Joan R. Olshansky, Chief of Staff, at (212) 553-1128 if you have any questions about the hearing or if you are planning to carry out any work on the above-listed property so that your plans may be reviewed by our staff to assess their impact on the proposed Landmark. To arrange for speaking time for yourself or for your representative at the public hearing, please call Ms. Marion Cleaver (212) 553-1136 by Monday, September 30, 1991.

Sincerely yours,

Merin E Urban

Merin Elizabeth Urban
Executive Director

MEU:MGC:hpc
Enc.



South Shore
St. Pauls Methodist Church
Tottenville

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
7559 Amboy Road, Staten Island, N.Y. 10307
Reverend Paul W. Bowles 1(718) 984-1542
1(718) 948-9703

September 5, 1991

Laurie Beckelman, Chairperson
Landmarks Preservation Commission
225 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Ms Beckelman,

At a regular meeting of the Administrative Council of St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 2, 1991, the question of Landmark designation for St. Paul's Church building was discussed.

The Trustees of St. Paul's Church, at a meeting Wednesday, September 3, 1991, also discussed the same possibility.

Members of both groups felt that they do not wish the Church to be considered for Landmark designation at this time.

Thank you for this consideration.

Very truly yours,

Joyce R. Slaight

Joyce R. Slaight
Secty. Board of Trustees
Member Admin. Council

cc: Anthony W. Robins
Director of Survey