



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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News Release
December 13, 2005

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGNATES A BUILDING IN STATEN ISLAND

Seaman Cottage (441 Clarke Avenue, Staten Island)

“The Commission routinely approves adaptive reuse of landmark buildings but rarely adaptive relocation!” said Robert B. Tierney, Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. *“Moving this building to a new location shows the Landmarks Commission’s dedication to saving historic buildings in New York City. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to this terrific success story.”*

Seaman Cottage, constructed c. 1836-37 by developer Henry I. Seaman, is a well preserved example of a modest Greek Revival style cottage and a significant reminder of the early history of Richmondtown, the historic governmental center of Staten Island. Henry Seaman was an instrumental figure in the development of Richmondtown in the 1830s and this is the most intact of the five houses that Seaman built on Center Street that came to be known as the “Seaman Cottages.” The term cottage was used in the 1830s to describe a newly fashionable building type, a small scale house with up-to-date amenities and modern detailing intended for middle class occupants.



Moving Seaman Cottage, July 2005

This two-and-one half-story, side hall plan, gable-roofed frame house retains its historic form and most of its historic detailing. Its design exhibits the simple forms and planar surfaces characteristic of the Greek Revival style and includes such notable features as a one-story portico, flush clapboarding, an eared and pedimented entry surround, simple molded window surrounds and a low gabled roof. Although many small, simple detached wood frame and clapboard Greek Revival style houses were erected in the villages of Staten Island in the 1830s and 1840s, relatively few have survived in a good state of preservation making the Seaman Cottage an unusual survivor.



Seaman Cottage in its new location

Originally located at 218 Center Street, the building was moved in July 2005 to its new location at 441 Clarke Avenue.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency responsible for designating and regulating New York City's landmarks. To date, the Commission has designated 1,129 individual landmarks, 105 interior landmarks, 9 scenic landmarks, and 83 historic districts.