



NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 14, 2012
No. 12-08**

COLONIAL-ERA BURIAL GROUND IN QUEENS NAMED A NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK

Brinckerhoff Cemetery, in Use by 1730 until 1872 on the Site of Two Former Farms in the Fresh Meadows Section of Queens, Was the Private Burial Ground for Some of the Borough’s Earliest and Most Prominent Dutch Settlers

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to designate as a New York City landmark the Brinckerhoff Cemetery, an 18th-century private burial ground in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens.



Located at 69-65 to 69-73 182nd Street between two former farms, the cemetery was in use from 1730 to 1872, according to a survey compiled in 1919 that identified 77 gravestones and markers. The inscriptions indicate the names of a number of prominent inter-related Dutch families, such as Brinckerhoff, Hoogland, Adriance and Ryerson, who owned farms in the area, which was later known as Black Stump and remained an agricultural community until the 1930s.

The Brinckerhoff Cemetery at one time had been an acre and a half, and was located on the border of the Brinckerhoff-Skidmore-Schleider and Noorstrandt-Hendrickson-Purdy-Eiseman farms. Private burial grounds were common in Queens during the early 1700s, and typically were formed by landowners who fenced off plots on their farms.



The Brinckerhoffs, some of whom arrived in New Amsterdam as early as 1638, owned the farm where the cemetery is located by 1698. The photo at left, taken in 1927 (courtesy of The Archive, Queens Library), shows a headstone with an inscription in Dutch that marks the grave of Aeltje Brinckerhoff.

“This cemetery, despite all of the changes that have occurred around it, remains one of a handful of sites that directly ties New York City to its earliest days as a Dutch settlement,” said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney.

The cemetery is located in the middle of the block, on the north side of 73rd Avenue and is covered with scattered trees and shrubs. There are no visible gravestones or markers; however, there is no evidence that the historic graves and markers have been removed. It is currently owned by Linda’s Cai Trading, Inc.

Twelve other cemeteries in New York City have been designated as individual landmarks. They include New York Marble Cemetery (on the interior of the block between East 2nd and 3rd Streets between Second Avenue and the Bowery) in Manhattan; New York Marble Cemetery at 52-74 East 2nd St. in Manhattan; Shearith Israel Graveyard in Manhattan; the Moore-Jackson Cemetery

in the Woodside section of Queens; the Lawrence Family Graveyard in Steinway section of Queens; the Lawrence Family Graveyard in Bayside, Queens; Prospect Cemetery in Jamaica, Queens; Remsen Cemetery in Rego Park, Queens; the Richard Cornell Graveyard in Far Rockaway, Queens; Old West Farms Soldiers' Cemetery in the Bronx and the Sleigh Family Graveyard and the Rossville A.M.E. Zion Church Cemetery in Staten Island.

In other business, the Commission voted unanimously to hold public hearings on proposals to landmark the **Rainbow Room**, the famed Art Deco-style night club that was completed in 1934 at the top of 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan, and five New York City Fire Department firehouses that were completed between 1891 and 1913. The public hearing on the Rainbow Room proposal was scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012** and the public hearings on the proposals to give landmark status to the five firehouses will be held **Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012**.

The firehouses include two in the Bronx: **Engine Co. 46, Hook and Ladder Co. 27** at 450-460 Cross Bronx Expressway at East 176th Street in the Bathgate section of the borough, and **Engine Co. 73 and Hook and Ladder Co. 42** at 659 Prospect Ave. at East 152nd Street in Longwood; two in Brooklyn: **Engine Co. 228** at 436 39th St. in Sunset Park and **Engine Co. 40 and Ladder 21** (now Engine Co. 240 and Battalion 48) at 1307-1309 Prospect Ave. in Windsor Terrace and one in Queens: **Engine Co. 268 and Hook and Ladder Co. 137** at 259 Beach 116th Street in Rockaway Park.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the mayoral agency responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to more than 30,000 buildings and sites, including 1,317 individual landmarks, 114 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 108 historic districts and 18 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered among the most powerful in the nation, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough.

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