

Though not covered in the article, the results indicate what happens when Queens Civic Congress takes on an issue: people in power start to pay attention.

Landmarking Queens -

Notes from QCC Executive VP Patricia Dolan:

An all star panel of Queens preservationists and leaders of the NYC landmarking establishment shared their expertise with QCC members at a special QCC workshop in Glendale on February 26. Council Member Jessica Lappin, Historic Districts Council executive director Simeon Bankoff and Municipal Arts Society VP Frank Sanchis cautioned that acquiring landmark protection for local neighborhoods is a long slog requiring hard work and community organizing.

Herb Reynolds of the Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance recalled the decade long effort his group mounted that included writing postcards, going door to door to collect neighbors' support and convincing local elected officials to publicly support preservation. Kevin Wolfe, a Douglaston based architect recalled similar efforts on behalf of the Douglaston landmarking.

The panelists agreed that meeting the tremendous challenges involved in preserving neighborhoods is worth the effort.

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2008/03/18/2008-03-18_preservationists_say_qns_often_ignored.html?page=0

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Preservationists say Qns. often ignored

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DelMundo for News

Supporters rally to save Trylon Theater in Forest Hills.



Hagen for News

New York State Pavilion at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park



Noonan for News

Pearl-Bullard-Eccles-Kabriski Mansion in Flushing

[Queens](#), the city's largest borough, historically has attracted an eclectic mix of iconic artists, athletes and thinkers.

But you wouldn't know that by counting its landmarks.

That may change in the wake of a city-commissioned survey of 12,495 buildings in Queens, which has the fewest stand-alone landmarks — 69 — of any borough, just a tenth of [Manhattan](#)'s.

That survey could be vital in saving the borough's heritage at a time when a building boom is sweeping across Queens.

"It gives us an opportunity to focus on more designations where they're warranted, and also to get ahead of the curve on any buildings that may be endangered," said [Landmarks Commission Chairman Robert Tierney](#).

Queens preservationists have been critical of the commission, but remain cautiously optimistic about the survey.

However, they fear some noteworthy, at-risk sites won't win designations, given the commission's record of favoring architecture over historical significance.

With that in mind, Queens News is kicking off a "History in Peril" series — offering profiles of unlandmarked sites.

To be declared a city landmark, according to the guidelines, a structure must be at least 30 years old and possess "a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, state or nation."

Once a landmark is designated by the commission and approved by the City Council, the building owner needs the commission's consent to change the facade or significant architectural features.

Income-eligible owners can also apply for upkeep grants.

With such protections, landmark designation is the surest way to maintain a historic gem,

preservationists contend.

"Areas throughout the city feel the development pressure," said Peg Breen, president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. "It's crucial to get ahead of the game a little bit."

[Queens Historical Society](#) President [Jim Driscoll](#) said the survey will lead to designations - but "maybe not the ones we want or as many as we want."

He criticized the mayoral-appointed, 11-member commission - three architects, a historian, a Realtor, a planner or landscape artist and reps from each borough - for ignoring Queens.

[Nancy Cataldi](#), president of the [Richmond Hill Historical Society](#), said the agency hasn't been eager to consider local sites. "It's very frustrating," she said. "They're not listening."

Others gripe the commission relies too much on the City Council - perhaps by necessity, since the Council gets final say on designations.

In 2005, when preservationist [Michael Perlman](#) pushed for designation of the Art Deco-style Trylon Theater in [Forest Hills](#), Tierney sought approval from local [Councilwoman Melinda Katz](#).

But Katz didn't take a position on the movie house, and the commission shot the effort down. Crews gutted and renovated the Trylon into a Bukharian Jewish center.

Recent years, however, have brought promise.

Since [Mayor Bloomberg](#) took office in 2002, the commission has designated 661 Queens structures, including those in historic districts. In February, it landmarked a [Corona](#) synagogue and former [Jamaica](#) bank.

"The idea that some say we're either neglecting Queens or something, Queens is not getting the attention the rest of the city gets, is not borne out by these facts," Tierney said.

Moving forward, the best way to get a Queens site landmarked is to highlight its role in the community, said [Simeon Bankoff](#), executive director of the [Historic Districts Council](#).

"Buildings don't exist in a vacuum," he said.

Places in the boro's heart

We get no respect! With Queens lagging behind the other boroughs in the number of city landmarks designations, preservationists identified these five structures among the most worth saving.

1. [New York State Pavilion](#)

[Flushing Meadows-Corona Park](#)

Constructed for the 1964-65 World's Fair, the pavilion features three towers and the "Tent of Tomorrow" rotunda, with a terrazzo New York State map and cable suspension roof. The towers exhibit cracks, and the cables appear bare without the multicolored panels they once held in place. The city has commissioned a \$200,000 study of the roof and is overseeing restoration of some map tiles.

2. [James Brown Home](#)

175-19 Linden Blvd., Addisleigh Park

[Cootie Williams](#), a trumpeter in the [Duke Ellington Orchestra](#), sold the three-story, Tudor-style home to the thirtysomething Brown, who resided there from 1963 to 1968. Music greats [Count Basie](#) and [Illinois Jacquet](#) lived within blocks, but neighbors focused on the exuberant, up-and-coming "Godfather of Soul" - who erected a high fence to fend off sightseers, said [Marc Miller](#), who helped

create the Queens Jazz Trail map in 1998. The fence, reportedly emblazoned with "JB" monograms, is now gone. The house is currently on the market.

3. [Nancy Reagan Childhood Home](#) 149-40 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing

The former First Lady's first home was an unassuming two-story house - now with green aluminum siding. Edith and [Kenneth Seymour Robbins](#) lived there when their destined-for-fame daughter, [Anne Frances](#), was born in 1921. The girl who grew up to become Nancy Reagan spent two years in [Flushing](#) before moving in with relatives in [Maryland](#), according to a 1991 unauthorized biography by [Kitty Kelley](#).

4. [Pearl-Bullard-Eccles-Kabriski Mansion](#) 147-38 Ash Ave., Flushing

Built as a summer retreat in the 1840s, this white wood mansion remains the oldest freestanding "cottage" left in Flushing, said historic preservation consultant [Paul Graziano](#). After original owner [Charles Pearl](#) died in 1884, his daughter sold the home to the [Bullard](#) family - whose son, Roger Harrington Bullard, became a famous architect and may have renovated the mansion's complex porches. Later owners were the [Rev. George Eccles](#) of [St. John's Episcopal Church](#) and contractor [Matthew Kabriski](#).

5. [West Side Tennis Stadium](#) 69th Ave. and Dartmouth St., Forest Hills

Home to the U.S. Open from 1924 to 1977, the 14,000-seat, horseshoe-shaped arena was where [Don Budge](#) completed the first-ever tennis Grand Slam in 1938, said [Eugenia Frangos](#), an archivist for the West Side Tennis Club. Other notables to grace the court include [Althea Gibson](#), [Arthur Ashe](#), [Jimmy Connors](#), [John McEnroe](#) and [Billie Jean King](#). The concrete venue also hosted the [Beatles](#), the Doors, [the Monkees](#), the [Rolling Stones](#), [Jimi Hendrix](#) and [Frank Sinatra](#).