

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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March 27, 2025

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Via Email: scarroll@lpc.nyc.gov

CC: mherman@lpc.nyc.gov, sthomson@lpc.nyc.gov, rfe@lpc.nyc.gov

Re: Landmark Designation for Church of the Transfiguration

Dear Chair Carroll:

HDC is writing today to support the individual designation of the Church of the Transfiguration, completed in 1962 to designs by Lithuanian architect Jonas Mulokas, at 64-25 Perry Avenue, in Maspeth Queens.

HDC has been working closely with our partners at DOCOMOMO US and DOCOMOMO US New York/Tri-State to advocate for this site, as well as more importantly prominent Lithuanian and Lithuanian-American organizations, individuals, and agencies that consider this one of the most important sites in the United States for their cultural heritage. In addition to support from the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in New York, the Lithuanian Alliance of America, the Knights of Lithuania Council 110, and Newtown Historical Society, we are providing copies of support letters from the National Commission for Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Lithuania and Council Member Robert Holden.

As these letters show, the church is among the most significant buildings of Lithuanian heritage outside of Lithuania. The combination of traditional Lithuanian and modernist architecture by Jonas Mulokas, as well as the artistic contributions of Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas and Aleksandras Marciulonis to the exterior and interior are of special mention. This is undoubtedly the most significant extant building of Mulokas' career and one of the only ones that truly exemplifies Lithuanian architecture outside of the country.

We believe this designation would also meet LPC's criteria and priorities for several reasons. The LPC has recently made a special focus on designating buildings of the recent past including the Modulightor Building by Paul Rudolph, the former Whitney Museum by Marcel Breuer, and the Barkin Levin Building by Ulrich Franzen. The Church of the Transfiguration is worthy of joining this group of distinguished sites. Finally, we believe this site aligns with the LPC's Equity Framework, both for its connection to the Lithuanian Community and for its geographic location in Maspeth, an area with no designated landmark sites.

Thank you for your consideration of this prospective landmark and we look forward to working with you to protect this important building.

Sincerely,

Frampton Tolbert Executive Director