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From: **Julie Georgopoulos**

Date: Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 2:55 PM

Subject: Re: Thomaston Landmark Commission

To: Donald Stern

Hi Don,

Summer is usually my busiest, but it is always fun! I hope you are doing well.

I have attached a compilation of things I have found online, and on the GN library website. I have reached out to the GN library to see if they have anything beyond what is on the website for reference, but have not heard back. I did a review of the buildings from the street, but I've reached out to the Church to see if we can do an up close visit. I had sent an email to Carol a while back, but I had not heard from her.

These are my comments for each building:

The Parish House:

This is the oldest building, and exists as close to the original building architecture style (Carpenter Gothic Revival-with material upgrades) as the original construction. I would agree that this building can fit the criteria of the landmark rules as 'valuable for a period, style, or method of construction', and perhaps 'identified with historic personages'. Spinney was a prominent member of the community that made contributions to the development of a specific religious group, and community as a whole. This building has also received an award from the Great Neck Historical Society for the meticulous restoration/preservation performed. What is interesting is that an inventory form had been submitted to the state in 1977 (attached), but had been labeled as 'undetermined' for qualification by NYS.

The Parsonage House:

This is a fairly old building, but with modifications to the exterior materials over time (based on photos and records). The distinctive characteristics described in the Thomaston guide, as well as the building structure inventory form from 1977 (attached), have been removed (the original porch and elements in the 'restrained Victorian style'). As it exists, it is not necessarily 'valuable for a period, style, or method of construction', as this is a fairly common residential style. If anything, this may be considered as 'related outbuilding' or 'non-contributing building' should the parish house or the church be considered landmarkable. An inventory form had also been submitted to the state in 1977 (attached), but had been labeled as 'undetermined' for qualification by NYS.

The Church:

I have been thinking about this from a few different perspectives... The original church was constructed in a gothic revival style with distinctive board and batten vertical siding,

and pointed arch windows, etc, which 'exemplified an architectural style'. The new church has been constructed in a different style (more of a colonial revival vs the original gothic). As an individual building, this may be 'valuable for a period, style, or method of construction', but is not congruent with the style of the other two buildings, nor is it in the same style of the original church. Because it is now greater than 50 years old, it could be considered landmarkable per the NPS criteria (as an example of a specific style) on its own merits.

The Site:

I believe if these were three different buildings, it would be simpler to evaluate them on their individual merits; Because they are together, the decision to landmark this site makes it more complicated, as they are codependent. I would be comfortable with landmarking the parish house, as this is a distinct architectural style, represents a period in history, and was built by a prominent member of the community. Perhaps the other two buildings are just considered as part of the collective 'site' with the church having its own representative architectural style. Architecturally, the overall site with the three buildings, documents the history of a religious group in the community, one of its most important members, and the evolution over time.

Please let me know your thoughts. Perhaps we can talk to NYS again for another opinion here. I will let you know if I find anything else.

Thanks for taking the lead on this!

Best, Julie

BUILDING STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 059-38-00007
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: _____ DATE: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ORGANIZATION (if any): _____

JAN 30 1977

IDENTIFICATION

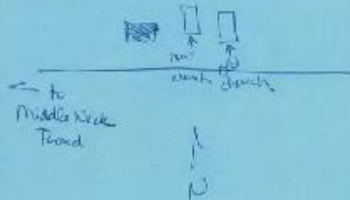
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Rough house, Great Neck United Methodist Church
- 2. COUNTY: Queens TOWN/CITY: Flushing Meadows VILLAGE: Flushing Meadows-Throton
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Delaney Boulevard, Flushing Meadows - east of Middle Neck Rd
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: church
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain: private

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
(if known) b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other: unstable wood
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



BUILDING STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 059-38-0008
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO _____

8

YOUR NAME: _____ DATE: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

JAN 30 1977

ORGANIZATION (if any): _____

IDENTIFICATION

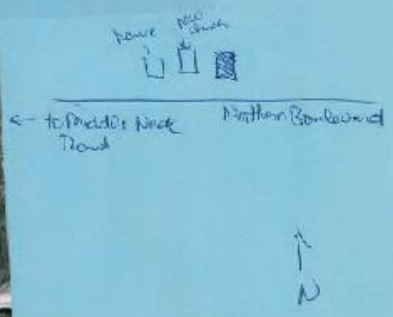
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Great Neck United Methodist Church
- 2. COUNTY: Jessaca TOWN/CITY: N. Newfield VILLAGE: Beacon
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Northern Blvd. south side just off Middle Neck Road
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: church Present: school
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain boarded up

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other undetermined
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



Landmarking Request For 715 Northern Blvd Korean United Methodist Church. Great Neck

Submitted Request:

From: Olivia Pinsley <opinsley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Village of Thomaston <clerk@villageofthomaston.org>
Subject: Landmark Request

Pursuant to Section 120 of the Village of Thomaston Village Code, I request that the below property be designated as a landmark:

Name: Korean United Methodist Church of Great Neck
Owner: Trustees of Korean United Methodist Church of New York
Address: 715 Northern Boulevard
Built: c. 1872
Architect: Mundell & Teckritz
Alterations: Church building rebuilt in 1951 to a design by Thomas M. Bell

Great Neck's Korean United Methodist Church traces its roots to the efforts of Joseph Spinney, an affluent export merchant who lived on East Shore Road. Spinney, as a local resident, spurred the effort to create the first Methodist-Episcopal church on the Great Neck Peninsula. He purchased a portion of the property of Benjamin Wood at the top of North Hempstead Turnpike and had Mundell & Teckritz of Brooklyn design a worshiping hall which was built by J. S. Carpenter of Great Neck in the Victorian Revival style at a cost of \$21,000. He donated the funds for the church, parish house, and parsonage for the congregation. Spinney would remain a principal benefactor of the church, underwriting their major events and bequeathing \$3,000 in his will to the group.

Under the direction of John Pilkington, there were 50 active members. A decade later, as the congregation grew with the increased populations of North Hempstead, a parish hall was also built with great fanfare in 1881. Local residents like the Skidmore and Warren families contributed, as well as Bloodgood Cutter who wrote a poem just for the occasion. The Sunday school inside of the parish house reached a membership of 175 people in its first year. In 1892, an organ was installed through the efforts of Ethel Henderson Newbold. Their benefactors included the Barnes, Woolsey, Treadwell, and Mason families of significant Great Neck local acclaim.

Pilkington was succeeded by William C. Bennett as Minister of the Great Neck Methodist Episcopal Church. The ministry undertook an ambitious expansion plan in 1945 for \$100,000 to remodel the sanctuary, create a choir room, and establish a minister's study. They also held a nursery with multiple classrooms for youth religious instruction. In 1948, tragedy struck when the main church hall was destroyed by a fire caused by a short circuit from an oil burner. At the time, it was the second-oldest church in Great Neck.