



**Landmarks Preservation  
Commission**

**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair

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**BANK OF THE MANHATTAN COMPANY BUILDING BECOMES A NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK**

*Commission Approves Landmark Status for Queens Clock Tower in Long Island City*



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to designate the former Bank of the Manhattan Company building in Queens as a New York City Landmark.

Located at 29-27 Queens Plaza North, the building, also known as the Queens Clock Tower, is eleven stories tall and its most prominent feature is its slender clock tower, which incorporates four large glass faces with Roman numerals. Designed by Queens-born architect Morrell Smith, the Bank of the Manhattan Company Building was an instant landmark when it was completed in 1927.

At the time of its completion the building was described as “the first skyscraper in Queens,” and Morrell’s design received first prize from the Queens Chamber of Commerce as the borough’s best business building of 1927. Despite alterations to the base in the 1960s, the neo-Gothic style elevations are mostly well-preserved, including the small roof-top reliefs that incorporate images of the god Oceanus, a symbol of the bank, as well as the bank’s initials.

“For nearly a century, the Queens Clock Tower building has been one of Long Island City’s most recognizable structures, greeting hundreds of thousands of commuters as they enter the borough,” said Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan. “The Commission is proud to recognize this iconic building, which represents a significant period of development in Long Island City.”

After the opening of the Queensboro Bridge in 1909, this section of Long Island City developed into an important commercial center, attracting a large concentration of factories and banks. With nearly 40 branches in Queens by the end of the 1920s, the Bank of the Manhattan Company Building served as a prominent reminder of the bank’s far-reaching commitment to the citizens of the borough.

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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 approximately 33,000 buildings and sites, including 1347 individual landmarks, 117 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 114 historic districts and 20 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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