LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 12, 1976
CM #101359

Dr. John Satterfield
President
Wagner College
631 Howard Avenue
Staten Island, New York

Dear President Satterfield:

Your name appears as the Representative of the owner of Cunard Hall at Wagner College. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 207-12.0 of Chapter 8-A (Preservation of Landmarks and Historic Districts) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, you are hereby notified that on Tuesday, May 11, 1976 at 10:30 o'clock in the morning of that day, a public hearing will be held in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, with respect to the proposed designtion of the above named property.

Public notice of said hearing identifying the proposed Landmark, and setting forth its location will appear in the City Record of April 26, 1976, and on each day (other than Saturdays, Sundays and holidays thereafter) until and including May 11, 1976.

You or your representative may appear at such public hearings and present any facts and express any views relating to the proposed designation. If you plan to present any facts express any views or offer any testimony, the Commission will appreciate it if you let us know as soons as possible in order that appropriate arrangements may be made for your participation.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb
cc: Mr. William Maher

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
STEPHEN S. LASH / HAWTHORNE E. LEE / HENRY F. LUDDER, JR. / PAUL E. PARKER, JR.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 12, 1976

Mr. Robert Karlin
700 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, New York 10301

Re: Public Hearings

Dear Mr. Karlin:

The following site in your neighborhood will be considered at Public Hearings starting at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, May 11, 1976 in the Board of Estimate Chambers, City Hall:

Cunard Hall, Grymes Hill, Wagner College, Staten Island

The purpose of the Hearings is to ascertain whether this building qualifies for landmark designation, and the Commission would appreciate receiving the views of the Board. We are writing you pursuant to Local Law 39 of 1969.

If you have any questions before the Hearing, we will be very glad to answer them. A representative of the Board may want to appear, or you may want to send a statement to be read into the record on May 11, 1976.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 16, 1976

Hon. Robert T. Connor
Borough President
120 Borough Hall
Staten Island, New York 10301

Dear Borough President Connor:

On Tuesday, May 11, 1976 at the Board of Estimate Chambers in City Hall there will be a Public Hearing on proposed New York City Landmarks. That day the Commission will consider the designation of the following sites in your borough.

Cunard Hall, Wagner College
631 Howard Avenue

2876 Richmond Terrace House
Mariner's Harbor

The Commission has written to the Community Boards and the owners of the properties under consideration. If you would like to submit a statement about these proposed designations, we would read your message into the record that day. The Commission appreciates your interest in its work.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 19, 1976

Hon. Anthony R. Gaeta
City Councilman
148 Bay Street Room 200
Staten Island, New York 10301

Dear Councilman Gaeta:

On Tuesday, May 11, 1976 in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold another Public Hearing on proposed New York City Landmarks. That day the Commission will consider the designation of the following sites in your district:

Cunard Hall, Wagner College, 631 Howard Avenue
2876 Richmond Terrace House, Mariner's Harbor

The Commission has written to the Community Boards and the owners of the properties. If you would like to submit a statement about these proposed designations, we would read you message into the record that day. The Commission appreciates your interest in its work.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 19, 1976

Hon. John Murphy
Congressman
550 Manor Road
Staten Island, New York 10314

Dear Congressman Murphy:

On Tuesday, May 11, 1976 in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold another Public Hearing on proposed New York City Landmarks. That day the Commission will consider the designation of the following sites in your district:

Cunard Hall, Wagner College, 631 Howard Avenue
2876 Richmond Terrace House, Mariner's Harbor

The Commission has written to the Community Boards and the owners of the properties. If you would like to submit a statement about these proposed designations, we would read your message into the record that day. The Commission appreciates your interest in its work.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
STEPHEN S. LASH / HAWTHORNE E. LEE / HENRY F. LUDDER, JR. / PAUL E. PARKER, JR.

RECEIVED
APR 29 1976
Landmarks Preservation Commission

WAGNER COLLEGE
GRYMES HILL
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y. 10301

April 28, 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

I should like to advise the Commission that I will appear on Tuesday, May 11, 1976 at 10:30 a.m. to represent the College at the hearing with respect to the proposed designation of Cunard Hall as a Landmark. The College is opposed to the designation of the Cunard mansion as a Landmark. In order to serve our educational constituency as well and economically as possible the Board of Trustees must have full freedom to modify the structure for maximum functionality.

Very truly yours,

William E. Maher, Director
Business & Financial Affairs

WEM:LB

5/11

CITY OF NEW YORK
PRESIDENT
OF THE
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

RECEIVED
APR 26 1976
Landmarks Preservation Commission

ROBERT T. CONNOR
PRESIDENT

BOROUGH HALL, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10301

22 April 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 1976 advising of the Public Hearing on 11 May 1976 concerning proposed New York City landmark designations for two locations on Staten Island.

With respect to Cunard Hall, Wagner College, please be advised that the president of the college has indicated strong opposition to such a designation.

In view of the opposition by the president of the college, as well as my negative reaction, based on close personal investigation of the matter, it is my firm recommendation that the proposal as it respects Cunard Hall be eliminated from consideration by your agency.

At the moment, I have no recommendations with respect to the Richmond Terrace House in Mariner's Harbor and would be guided by the feelings of the owners or managers of the facility.

With appreciation for your notification and inquiry relative to my views, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Robert T. Connor

cc: Honorable Abraham D. Beame
Honorable Harrison J. Goldin
Honorable Paul O'Dwyer
Honorable Robert Abrams
Honorable Sebastian Leone
Honorable Donald R. Manes
Honorable Percy E. Sutton
Dr. John Satterfield, President, Wagner College
Mr. Robert Karlin, Chairman, Community Board #2

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 19, 1976

Hon. John J. Marchi
State Senator
358 St. Marks Place
Staten Island, New York 10301

Dear Senator Marchi:

On Tuesday, May 11, 1976 in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold another Public Hearing on proposed New York City Landmarks. That day the Commission will consider the designation of the following sites in your district:

Cunard Hall, Wagner College, 631 Howard Avenue
2876 Richmond Terrace House, Mariner's Harbor

The Commission has written to the Community Boards and the owners of the properties. If you would like to submit a statement about these proposed designations, we would read your message into the record that day. The Commission appreciates you interest in its work.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

April 19, 1976

Hon. Elizabeth A. Connelly
Assemblyman
629 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10310

Dear Assemblyman Connelly:

On Tuesday, May 11, 1976 in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold another Public Hearing on proposed New York City Landmarks. That day the Commission will consider the designation of the following sites in your district:

Cunard Hall, Wagner College, 631 Howard Avenue
2876 Richmond Terrace House, Mariner's Harbor

The Commission has written to the Community Boards and the owners of the properties. If you would like to submit a statement about these proposed designations, we would read your message into the record that day. The Commission appreciates your interest in its work.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/eb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

June 14, 1976
CM #101641

Dr. John Satterfield, President
Wagner College
631 Howard Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10301

Re: Cunard Hall, Wagner College

Dear President Satterfield:

Your name appears as the Representative of the owner of the above named property. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 207-12.0 of Chapter 8-A (Preservation of Landmarks and Historic Districts) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, you are hereby notified that on Tuesday, July 13, 1976 at 10:30 o'clock in the morning of that day, a public hearing will be held in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, with respect to the proposed designation of the above named property. This item was continued from the Public Hearing on May 11, 1976.

Public notice of said hearing identifying the proposed Landmark, and setting forth its location will appear in the City Record of June 24, 1976 and on each day (other than Saturdays, Sundays and holidays thereafter) until and including July 13, 1976.

You or your representative may appear at such public hearings and present any facts and express any views relating to the proposed designation. If you plan to present any facts, express any views or offer any testimony, the Commission will appreciate it if you let us know as soon as possible in order that appropriate arrangements may be made for your participation.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/lb
cc: Mr. William E. Maher

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARA ELLE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
STEPHEN S. LASH / HAWTHORNE E. LEE / HENRY F. LUDLOW, JR. / PAUL F. PARKER, JR.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

June 15, 1976

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Connelly
Assemblyman
629 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10310

Re: Cunard Hall, Wagner College

Dear Assemblyman Connelly:

On Tuesday, July 13, 1976, 10:30 AM in the Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall, the Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold another Public Hearing on proposed New York City Landmarks. That day the Commission will consider the designation of the above named site(s) in your district.

The Commission has written to the Community Boards and the owners of the properties. If you would like to submit a statement about these proposed designations, we would read your message into the record that day. The Commission appreciates your interest in its work.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/lb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN / WARREN W. GRAN
STEPHEN S. LASH / HAWTHORNE E. LEE / HENRY F. LUDDER, JR. / PAUL E. PARKER, JR.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

June 15, 1976

The Honorable Robert Karlin, Chairman
Community Board #2
700 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, N.Y. 10301

Re: Cunard Hall, Wagner College
Statue of Liberty, Liberty Island

Dear Mr. Karlin:

The above named site(s) in your neighborhood will be considered at Public Hearings starting at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, July 13, 1976 in the Board of Estimate Chambers, City Hall.

The purpose of the Hearings is to ascertain whether this building qualifies for landmark designation, and the Commission would appreciate receiving the views of the Board. We are writing you pursuant to Local Law 39 of 1969.

If you have any questions before the Hearing, we will be very glad to answer them. A representative of the Board may want to appear, or you may want to send a statement to be read into the record on

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director

AS/lb

CHAIRMAN: BEVERLY MOSS SPATT / VICE-CHAIRMAN: MORRIS KETCHUM, JR.
EDWARD A. AMES / MARGARET BEYER / ELISABETH COIT / BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN WARREN W. GRAN
STEPHEN S. LASH / HAWTHORNE E. LEE / HENRY F. LUDDER, JR. / PAUL E. PARKER, JR.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MURPHY BEFORE THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW YORK CITY - JULY 13, 1976.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission, I am pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the designation of the Statue of Liberty and Cunard Hall of Wagner College as historic New York City landmarks.

A statue entitled Liberty Enlightening the World was given to the United States by the people of France to "commemorate the alliance of the two nations in achieving the independence of the United States and attests to their abiding friendship." The gift which was to serve as a remembrance of a past greatness quickly became the symbol of hope for the future.

To the world, this statue represents a commitment of leadership on the part of the United States in a movement toward world peace and freedom. To those who passed beneath Liberty's flame it was the symbol of a new life in a land of opportunity unequaled in history.

A symbol with such a powerful image usually overshadows those associated with its history, but with Liberty the fame of her creators is a significant part of her story. This sculpture is the direct product of the genius of Auguste Bartholdi after a discussion with historian Edouard de Laboulaye. The supporting framework was designed by Gustave Eiffel whose later structure was to become the symbol of Paris. When the construction of the pedestal came to a stand still it was American Joseph Pulitzer who championed the fund raising drive for its completion. The site for that pedestal was selected by General William Tecumseh Sherman, leader of the Union Army during the Civil War, and the actual presentation of the Statue to the

United States was made by Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal.

The history of the Statue of Liberty is rich, but its heritage is even richer. This statue is the focal point for all that America believes in, and has fought for, for more than two hundred years. It is only proper that the most famous statue in the world, one which has been an official national monument since 1924, should be included in a registry of New York City landmarks as well. For millions of people the light of Liberty was the first vision before their eyes when they arrived as immigrants in a new land. She has been a landmark from the first day she stood on American soil, it is now in the power of this commission to simply make it official and to bestow upon her the honor she so richly deserves.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission, today's session is also considering the inclusion of Cunard Hall, the Administration building of Wagner College, as a New York City landmark. Although it is not as renowned as the Statue of Liberty, its history is also rich, and its heritage no less deserving of official recognition.

Wagner College itself was founded in 1883 in Rochester, New York and moved in 1918 to its Staten Island location on the 38 acre estate of Sir Edward Cunard, son of the founder of the famous steamship line. The size has increased to 86 acres, due in large part to the impressive growth of the academic reputation of the College.

Cunard Hall, a magnificent example of Italian villa architecture, was built in 1852 on soil transported from England as ballast in Cunard liners. As signified by its original name, "Bellevue", the mansion commanded a view of the waters surrounding New York City and became part of the Wagner College campus in 1918.

From a total enrollment of six students in 1883, Wagner College has grown to include evening classes, a Nursing school, graduate and summer schools and more than 125 courses in medicine, pre-law, engineering and other professional fields. Student enrollment has risen to almost 3100 people, with a continuing growth pattern envisioned for the future.

The center for this expansion has been Cunard Hall. In our fast-paced society, Wagner College has maintained a marvelous touch of old-world grace and charm captured in this building. It is one of the few remaining relics of Staten Island's history, a history too often neglected in our urbanized, modernized world of the 1970's.

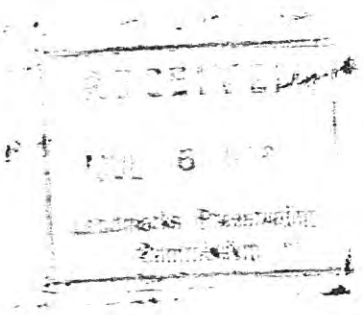
When so few reminders of our past remain, it is reassuring that such a distinguished group as this Commission has seen fit to consider listing Cunard Hall in the registry of New York City landmarks.

I again thank the Commission for the opportunity to present my opinions on these two noteable NewYork City sites. I hope that you will find them worthy to be designated as historic landmarks of our City.

WAGNER COLLEGE

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



July 2, 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro, Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

CM #101641
Cunard Hall, Wagner College

I am writing in reference to the public hearing on July 13, 1976 with respect to the landmark designation of Cunard Hall.

Dr. Norbert H. Leeseberg will represent me at the hearing and would like to express the views of the College's constituencies on the proposed designation.

Sincerely yours,

John Satterfield

John Satterfield

JS:ln

cc. Mr. Maher
Dr. Leeseberg

STATEMENT OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT ROBERT T. CONNOR OF STATEN ISLAND TO THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, 13 JULY 1976 REGARDING CUNARD HALL, WAGNER COLLEGE.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Landmarks Commission:

As I previously indicated in my letter to you dated 22 April, I oppose the proposal to designate Wagner College's Cunard Hall as a landmark. Supplementing those initial comments, I would now like to state that aside from the merit or lack thereof to the criteria weighed by the Commission in arriving at a landmark designation, my deepest concern is that foremost consideration should be given to the rights of the property owner. To do otherwise would be unconscionable.

The Administration of Wagner College, the legal owner of this property, has clearly expressed its opposition to designating Cunard Hall a landmark. I must, therefore, emphatically reiterate that it would be outrageous to force a landmark designation upon a property owner denying him constitutionally granted rights to the use of his property. At a time when the electorate of this Country is questioning the extension of "big government" and the erosion and infringement that it produces on our individual liberties, we should begin here to recognize the traditions and values that have made this Country great. The application should be denied.

General File

22 April 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 1976 advising of the Public Hearing on 11 May 1976 concerning proposed New York City landmark designations for two locations on Staten Island.

With respect to Cunard Hall, Wagner College, please be advised that the president of the college has indicated strong opposition to such a designation.

In view of the opposition by the president of the college, as well as my negative reaction, based on close personal investigation of the matter, it is my firm recommendation that the proposal as it respects Cunard Hall be eliminated from consideration by your agency.

At the moment, I have no recommendations with respect to the Richmond Terrace House in Mariner's Harbor and would be guided by the feelings of the owners or managers of the facility.

With appreciation for your notification and inquiry relative to my views, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Robert T. Connor

cc: Honorable Abraham D. Beame
Honorable Harrison J. Goldin
Honorable Paul O'Dwyer
Honorable Robert Abrams
Honorable Sebastian Leone
Honorable Donald R. Manes
Honorable Percy E. Sutton
Dr. John Satterfield, President, Wagner College
Mr. Robert Karlin, Chairman, Community Board #2

STATEMENT OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT ROBERT T. CONNOR OF STATEN ISLAND TO THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, 13 JULY 1976 REGARDING CUNARD HALL, WAGNER COLLEGE.

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General File

22 April 1976

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305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

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Robert T. Connor

cc: Honorable Abraham D. Beame
Honorable Harrison J. Goldin
Honorable Paul O'Dwyer
Honorable Robert Abrams
Honorable Sebastian Leone
Honorable Donald R. Manes
Honorable Percy E. Sutton
Dr. John Satterfield, President, Wagner College
Mr. Robert Karlin, Chairman, Community Board #2

STATEMENT OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT ROBERT T. CONNOR OF STATEN ISLAND TO THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, 13 JULY 1976 REGARDING CUNARD HALL, WAGNER COLLEGE.

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General File

22 April 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

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Sincerely yours,

Robert T. Connor

cc: Honorable Abraham D. Beame
Honorable Harrison J. Goldin
Honorable Paul O'Dwyer
Honorable Robert Abrams
Honorable Sebastian Leone
Honorable Donald R. Manes
Honorable Percy E. Sutton
Dr. John Satterfield, President, Wagner College
Mr. Robert Karlin, Chairman, Community Board #2

WAGNER COLLEGE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 13, 1976

I am Norbert Leeseberg from Wagner College, and I represent our President, John Satterfield, in connection with the consideration of Cunard Hall, a building on our Campus, as a landmark.

At the Public Hearing on May 11, 1976, Mr. William Maher, representing Wagner College, requested that consideration be postponed until Dr. Satterfield had an opportunity to solicit the feelings of our various constituencies. This has been done, and I respectfully request that Cunard Hall be withdrawn from consideration as a landmark.

We have examined the exterior of the building, and find that certain repairs must be made to eliminate water leaks and the damage that they have caused. We cannot guarantee, taking into consideration the financial position of the College, that the repair work will conform to the architecture and exterior finish that currently exist. The College needs the flexibility to use and repair buildings that will best serve its constituencies and that will conform to our budgetary restraint.

Dr. Satterfield sought the advice of our Alumni Association, and the reply from Mr. Ted Doerzbacher, President of the Association, is as follows:

Dear Dr. Satterfield:

It has come to the attention of the Wagner College Alumni Association that the Landmarks Commission is interested in our Cunard Hall. While I applaud the work and goals of Landmarks Commission, I feel that the Cunard Building should be omitted from their plans. To function properly, a school of higher education should have free rein in all areas; including its' grounds and buildings. Over the past years Cunard Hall has played an integral part in both learning and living for thousands of students on the Wagner Campus. Over these years, the building has maintained its physical soundness, its functional use, plus its architectural charm. We, the Wagner Alumni Association, feel that the College administration can, alone, appreciate its responsibility to use and care for Cunard Hall in the manner best for its students, alumni, and public at large.

Signed,
Ted Doerzbacher
President of the Alumni Association

Our Board of Trustees has had an opportunity to react to the topic, and after reviewing the situation and hearing the views of our President and the Alumni Association, they voted at their meeting on May 25, 1976 to approve the recommendation of the Executive and Finance Committee which states: "that in the best interest of the College we withdraw Cunard Hall from consideration as a city landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission."

In no way should my remarks be construed to denigrate the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission as a group or reflect negatively upon the fine efforts and accomplishments of its individual members and staff.

I repeat, Wagner College respectfully requests that Cunard Hall be withdrawn from consideration as a landmark, and I sincerely thank you for giving us the opportunity to be heard today.

STATEMENT OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT ROBERT T. CONNOR OF STATEN ISLAND TO THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, 13 JULY 1976 REGARDING CUNARD HALL, WAGNER COLLEGE.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Landmarks Commission:

As I previously indicated in my letter to you dated 22 April, I oppose the proposal to designate Wagner College's Cunard Hall as a landmark. Supplementing those initial comments, I would now like to state that aside from the merit or lack thereof to the criteria weighed by the Commission in arriving at a landmark designation, my deepest concern is that foremost consideration should be given to the rights of the property owner. To do otherwise would be unconscionable.

The Administration of Wagner College, the legal owner of this property, has clearly expressed its opposition to designating Cunard Hall a landmark. I must, therefore, emphatically reiterate that it would be outrageous to force a landmark designation upon a property owner denying him constitutionally granted rights to the use of his property. At a time when the electorate of this Country is questioning the extension of "big government" and the erosion and infringement that it produces on our individual liberties, we should begin here to recognize the traditions and values that have made this Country great. The application should be denied.

General File

22 April 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro
Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 1976 advising of the Public Hearing on 11 May 1976 concerning proposed New York City landmark designations for two locations on Staten Island.

With respect to Cunard Hall, Wagner College, please be advised that the president of the college has indicated strong opposition to such a designation.

In view of the opposition by the president of the college, as well as my negative reaction, based on close personal investigation of the matter, it is my firm recommendation that the proposal as it respects Cunard Hall be eliminated from consideration by your agency.

At the moment, I have no recommendations with respect to the Richmond Terrace House in Mariner's Harbor and would be guided by the feelings of the owners or managers of the facility.

With appreciation for your notification and inquiry relative to my views, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Robert T. Connor

cc: Honorable Abraham D. Beame
Honorable Harrison J. Goldin
Honorable Paul O'Dwyer
Honorable Robert Abrams
Honorable Sebastian Leone
Honorable Donald R. Manes
Honorable Percy E. Sutton
Dr. John Satterfield, President, Wagner College
Mr. Robert Karlin, Chairman, Community Board #2

WAGNER COLLEGE

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RECEIVED
JUL 6 1976
Landmarks Preservation Commission

July 2, 1976

Mr. Alfred Shapiro, Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission
305 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

CM #101641
Cunard Hall, Wagner College

I am writing in reference to the public hearing on July 13, 1976 with respect to the landmark designation of Cunard Hall.

Dr. Norbert H. Leeseberg will represent me at the hearing and would like to express the views of the College's constituencies on the proposed designation.

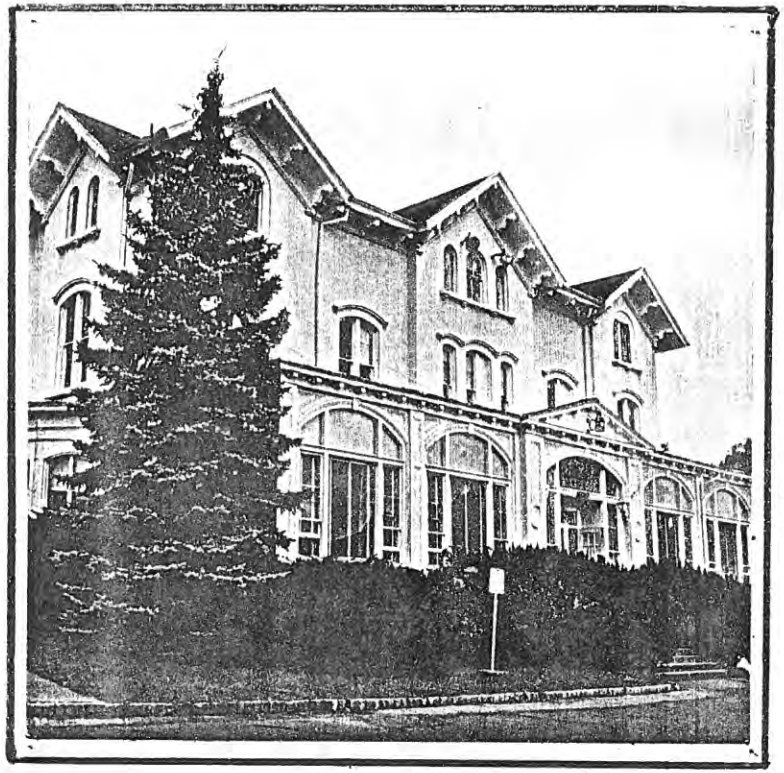
Sincerely yours,

John Satterfield

John Satterfield

JS:ln

cc. Mr. Maher
Dr. Leeseberg



CUNARD HALL

WAGNER COLLEGE

HOWARD AVENUE & CAMPUS ROAD

GRYMES HILL STATEN ISLAND

ARCHT: UNKNOWN.

DATE: c.1851

L.N.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE 5/12/76

College site landmark ruling put off

Consideration of Cunard Hall on the Wagner College campus as a city landmark was delayed until July 13 by the Landmarks Preservation Commission yesterday at the request of the college administration.

William Maher, director of financial affairs for the Grymes Hill school, made the request at the opening of a public hearing on the designation of the building.

Maher told the commission that the delay was needed in order to give college trustees and "other members of our constituency" time to consider the designation. The college trustees are scheduled to meet May 25.

Cunard Hall was built in 1851-52 by Sir Edward Cunard, son of the founder of the Cunard Steamship Co. The three-story mansion was originally called "Bellevue" and was constructed in the style of an Italianate villa. The college acquired the building in 1918 and currently uses it for administrative offices. The building is at 631 Howard Ave.

The Landmarks commission yesterday also held a hearing on the proposed designation of a 19th century "Captain's Row" home at 2876 Richmond Terr., Mariners Harbor.

The house, now owned by an antiques dealer, was built in the the early 1850s, probably by one of the sea captains who operated clipper or oyster ships on Staten Island during that period.

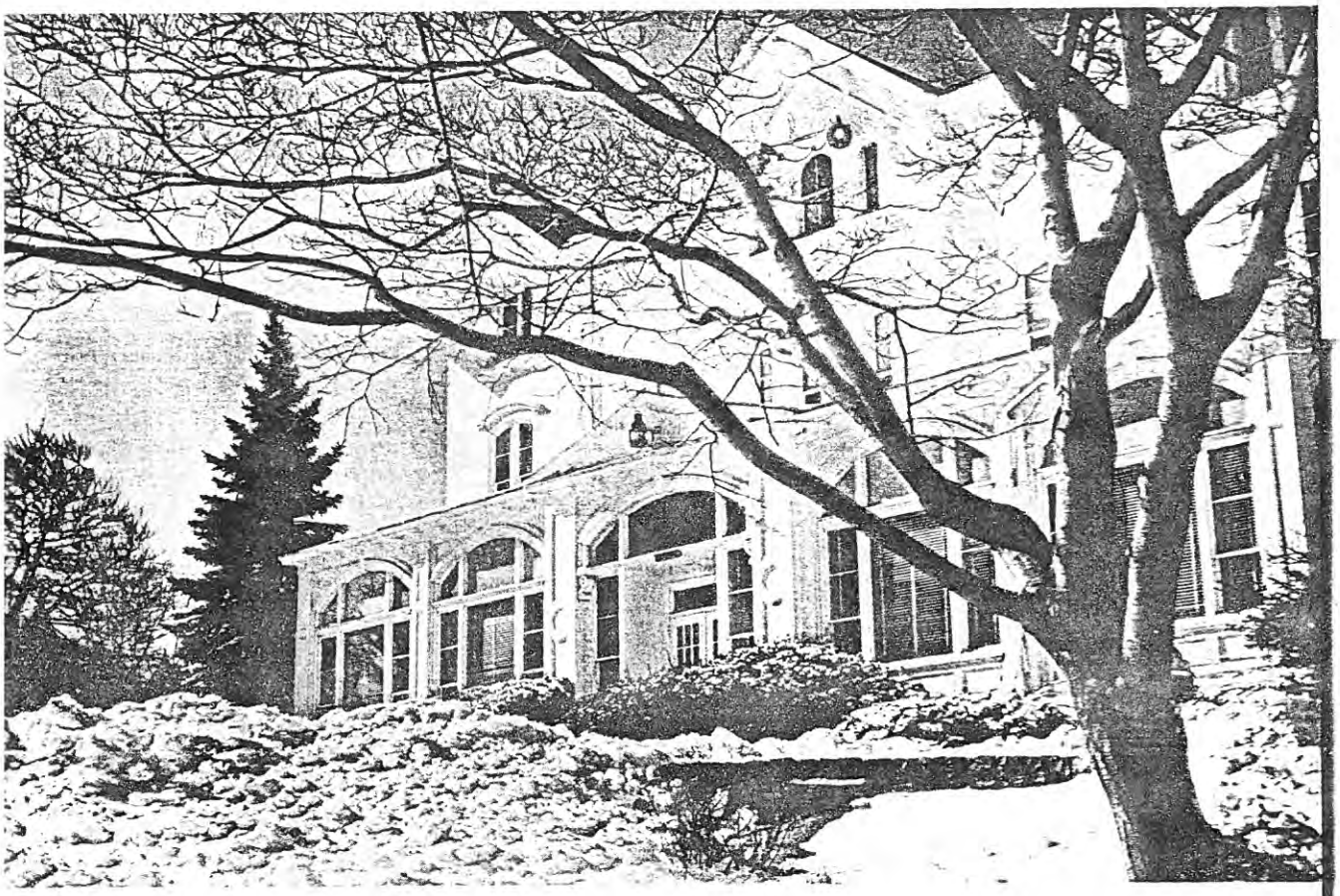
Speaking for the designation was Richard Ferrara of the American Institute of Architects, who called the building a "curious" combination of "Italianate and Gothic Revival styles."

Ferrara noted the building's "impressive scale and forceful character" that has been retained despite the surrounding commercial and industrial activities.

Commissioner Paul E. Parker Jr. apparently agreed with the architectural group's presentation, saying he believed the building to be "highly unusual for Staten Island."

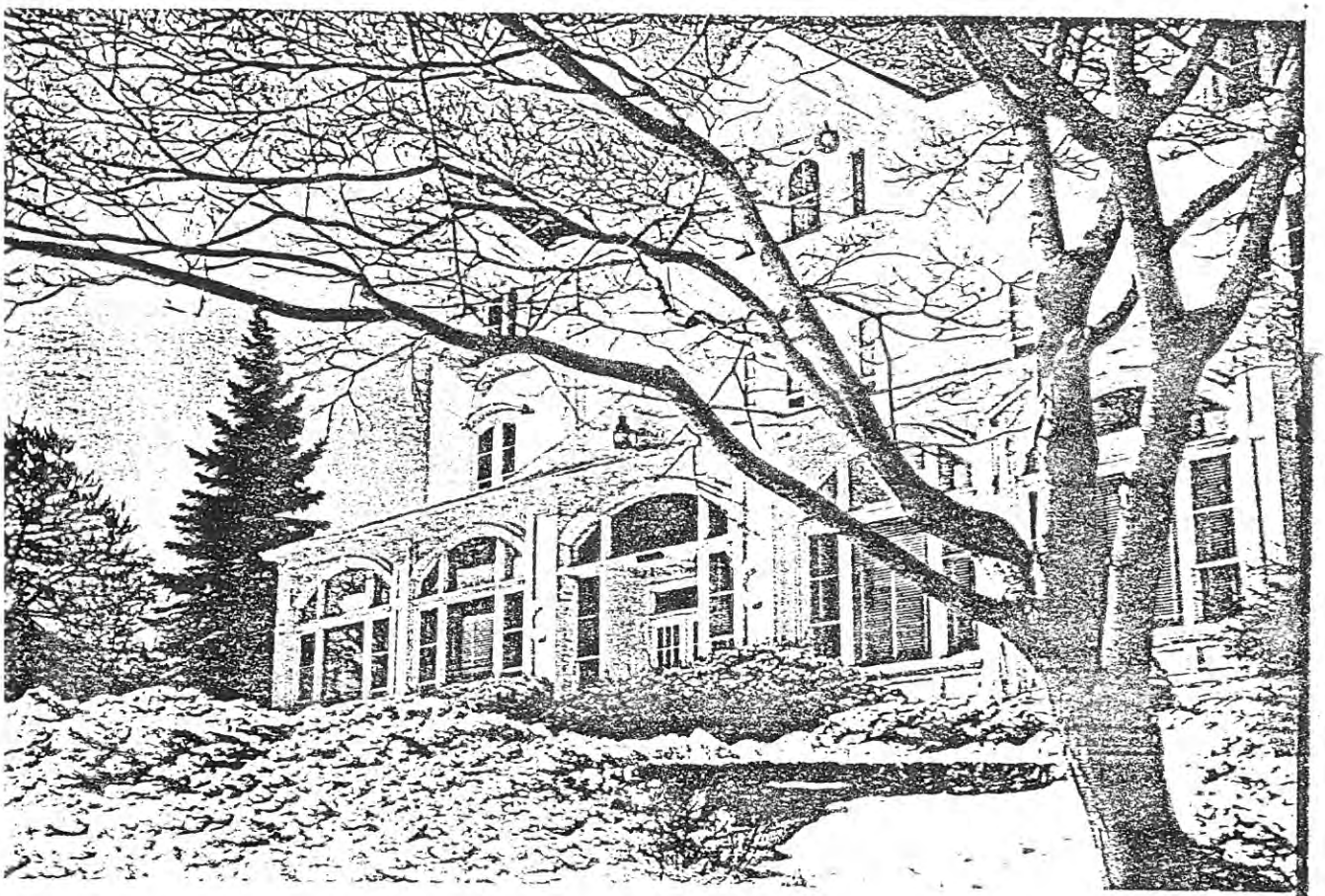
Should the commission decide to designate these buildings as official city landmarks, any renovations would have to be apprved by the commission

—JANICE KABEL



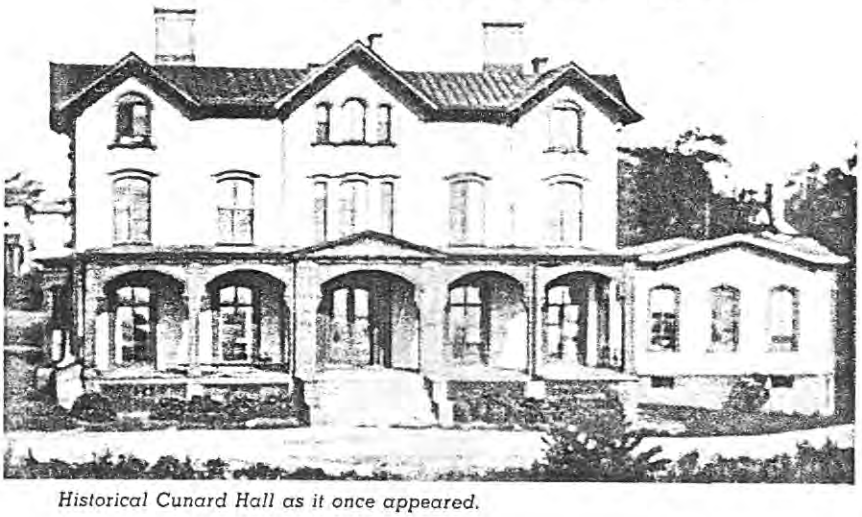
wagner

early spring 1967



wagner

early spring 1967



Historical Cunard Hall as it once appeared.

rich heritage to campus history
dmark still serves Wagner