

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Before the Land Use Committee of the City Council
Regarding the Designation of the Former Jamaica Savings Bank
89-01 Queens Boulevard, Borough of Queens
October 24, 2005**

LANDMARK WEST! is a non-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

LW! supports the designation of the former Jamaica Savings Bank (1966-68) in Queens, an interesting and unique example of mid-twentieth century bank architecture. The *AIA Guide to New York City Architecture* (4th edition, Norval White and Elliot Willensky), calls this building, which is prominently located on Queens Boulevard – the better to attract the attention of passing motorists – “a dynamic form concerned as much with image as with function” (p. 831). It certainly conforms to the definition of a Landmark, as spelled out in the 1965 New York City Landmarks Law: “Any improvement, any part of which is thirty years old or older, which has 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...” (NYC Administrative Code, §25-302).

The Landmarks Preservation Commission acted soundly within its jurisdiction to designate this building as an official New York City Landmark, and did so with the intention of preserving a distinctive aspect of Queens history. Now it is up to the Council to help the Landmarks Commission uphold its mandate to preserve our city’s architectural heritage. We appreciate the seriousness with which the Council takes its crucial advice and consent role, and we urge you to confirm this designation.