



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

July 12, 2013

Jack Bolembach
President, Save Mount Manresa Committee

Staten Island, NY 10305

Re: Mount Manresa, Fingerboard Road, Staten Island

Mr. Bolembach:

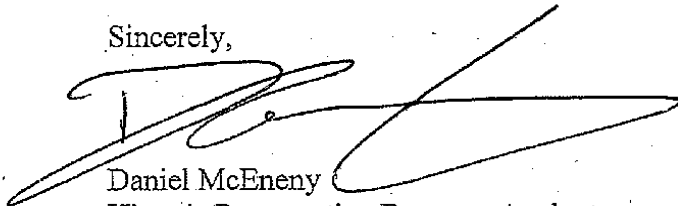
Our office has received your submission for a request for National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the Jesuit Retreat House at Mount Manresa on Staten Island, NY. I want to thank you for your thoroughly prepared historic overview of the site and based on the information submitted, the New York State Division for Historic Presentation has determined that the Mount Manresa is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Established in c.1861, the fifteen acres of land associated with Mount Manresa were developed for prominent ship and rail businessman Louis H. Meyer. In 1911, Fr. Terence J. Shealy, the chief organizer of the Jesuit's retreat movement, organized the order's purchase and development of the site. As the first established Jesuit Retreat House, they have carried out their charitable mission in the tradition of St. Ignatius Loyola at this site for the past 100 years. The grounds include features from the estate era, including the artesian well and water tower, a gate house, and the iron ore/Sacred Heart Grotto. The 1920s marked a period of growth at the site and in 1925/26, the late-gothic revival Shealy Hall and Sacred Heart Chapel were constructed. The period of significance for the site has been formed from the c.1860 estate period to the 1920s building campaigns. Buildings onsite that date to the midcentury are considered not contributing. The complex is eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture and Criterion A in the area of social history for its association with the establishment of the Jesuit Retreat House movement.

Eligibility and/or listing on the National Register offers a measure of protection under federal and New York State historic preservation laws. It does not prohibit a property owner from making changes, selling, or even demolishing a property with private funds. The Division for Historic Preservation provides consultation when public money or permitting is associated with a historic site. The purposes of the Register program is to document sites of cultural significance in communities and to qualify properties for potential grant programming and tax credit incentives for rehabilitation.

If there are any questions about this determination of National Register of Historic Places eligibility, please contact the Division staff to discuss further.
518.237.8643 x3257 daniel.mceneny@parks.ny.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel McEneny', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Daniel McEneny
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
New York City and Long Island

cc: Society of Jesus of New York