

THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Mitchell Silver
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
24 West 61st Street
New York, New York 10023

Dear Commissioner Silver:

The Landmarks Conservancy is quite concerned about the condition of the Olmsted-Beil Park and house on Staten Island that we observed on a visit this week. There has been a dramatic deterioration of the house since our last visit several years ago and the landscape has been left to ruin. Frederick Law Olmsted's former home and farm, the site of his early landscape experiments and nursery, deserve better.

We appreciate that the Department has tried to encourage a local group to care for the house and to buy the neighboring building to improve access. But these efforts started well over a decade ago and there has been no progress. In the meantime, this early City landmark and plantings by Olmsted are endangered.

In addition to its connection to Olmsted, the house dates to the 18th and possibly late 17th century and is architecturally very important.

The Conservancy would be happy to pay for an updated conditions survey on the house and to help raise public awareness. We urge the Department to restore the landscape. This is a site to be treasured.

We look forward to working with you on this incredibly important property.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen
President