



Deputy Presiding Officer  
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Committees

- Finance, Chair
- Economic & Community Development, Vice Chair
- Budget Review
- Towns & Villages
- Planning, Development & the Environment

August 5, 2013

Rose Harvey  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany NY 12207

**RE: St. Ignatius Jesuit Retreat House/Inisfada, North Hills, New York**

Dear Commissioner Harvey,

I write to you in support of placing the St. Ignatius Jesuit Retreat House, located in the Village of North Hills, NY, on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This is not just a magnificent structure worthy of preservation because of its astounding architectural beauty, but it has also been a spiritual heart of the Long Island community for decades.

The retreat house, named "Inisfada" after the Gaelic word for "Long Island," represents one of the few remaining fully intact Long Island Gold Coast mansions. For the past 36 years, Inisfada has been a destination for spiritual retreats, daily masses and a peaceful place to escape the stresses of everyday life.

The surrounding community is facing a significant outcry from its residents over the loss of its historic identity through the demolition of historic Gold Coast estates in favor of dense residential and commercial developments. Long-time residents recognize the need to preserve these icons, such as this 87 room treasure atop 33 acres of grounds. If we don't maintain properties such as the St. Ignatius Retreat House now, and recognize their importance with designations such as listing on the State and National Registers, they will not be here for future generations to appreciate centuries from now.

I hope that successful consideration of this application will begin the process leading to the preservation of this significantly influential historical and religious building.

I thank you in advance for your approval of this nomination for the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Best Regards,

Richard J. Nicoletto  
County Legislator, 9<sup>th</sup> L.D.

CC:

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New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
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