

# All Snug in the Harbor

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harbor land will be bought by the city as headquarters for the Staten Island Museum; funds already allocated to that institution will be used—a solution of stunning logic and notable municipal gain.

Credit must go to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the sophisticated tenacity of its chairman, Harmon Goldstone. Mr. Goldstone believes that New Yorkers are people who respect their past and treasure its monuments, who understand that a great city has history and style. At a time when the city hardly has humanity, that takes a lot of faith, but he may be right. Increasingly, New Yorkers are demonstrating that they do know and care.

Certainly the climate in the city has changed. Six years ago no one would have bet on passage of the landmarks law, but it was enacted. Five years ago no one gave odds for Sailors' Snug Harbor. Many assumed preservation was impossible. The trustees of Sailors' Snug Harbor challenged the law's constitutionality in a suit to overturn the landmark designation.

In a decision of major importance, the law was upheld. And now the city has found a way to keep the buildings. There is no longer any doubt that the concept of preservation is not only in the public interest but is a decisive factor in the quality of the environment.

The past has a future, even if it is a fight every step of the way. In New York the impossible just takes a little longer than anywhere else.

## All Snug in the Harbor

It has taken five years of negotiation between the city and the trustees of Sailors' Snug Harbor to save six landmark structures on the Staten Island waterfront from that fate worse than death known as modernization.

As the new facilities for the seamen's home were planned, the old ones would have suffered death by bulldozer. Instead this unusually fine group of historic Greek Revival buildings on thirteen acres of superb