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Regional News

## Kingston's Old Dutch Church gets national landmark status

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Saturday, October 11, 2008

By Paul KirBy

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In a prepared statement, the congressman cited the church's local significance.

"The church has played a vital role in the Kingston community for centuries," he said, "and its beautiful architecture and deeply rich history make it very worthy of a national historic landmark designation."

The church is at the corner of Wall and Main streets in Uptown Kingston and is surrounded by a cemetery in which many of the gravestones are hundreds of years old. Among those buried in the church yard is George Clinton, who served as U.S. vice president in the early 1800s and New York governor and Ulster County clerk in the late 1700s.

The congregation of the Old Dutch Church was organized in 1659. The first of three church structures was erected in 1680 and expanded several times prior to being burned by the British in 1777.

A rebuilt church opened in 1832, and the current structure was built from local bluestone in 1850.

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