

# Digital Storytelling

---

*The Queens Experience: An Experiment  
in Identity, Place and Community.*



# The Queens Experience

[Queens Links](#)

[About Us](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Search](#)

**Click on the Interactive Queens Map below to discover the Queens Experience.**



[Astoria](#) | [Bayside](#) | [Bellerose](#) | [Broadl Channel](#) | [Cambria Heights](#) | [College Point](#) | [Corona](#)  
[Douglaston](#) | [Elmhurst](#) | [Far Rockaway](#) | [Flushing](#) | [Forest Hills](#) | [Fresh Meadows](#)  
[Glendale](#) | [Hillcrest](#) | [Hollis](#) | [Howard Beach](#) | [Jackson Heights](#) | [Jamaica](#) | [Jamaica Estates](#)  
[Kew Gardens](#) | [Laurelton](#) | [Long Island City](#) | [Maspeth](#) | [Middle Village](#) | [Queens Village](#)

[Rego Park](#) | [Richmond Hill](#) | [Ridgewood](#) | [Rosedale](#) | [South Ozone Park](#) | [Springfield](#)

[St. Albans](#) | [Sunnyside](#) | [Whitestone](#) | [Woodhaven](#) | [Woodside](#)

**Copyright © 2001 Queens College**

# Astoria, Queens

[Queens Map](#)[Queens Links](#)[About Us](#)[Feedback](#)[Search](#)

Old Astoria

The history of Astoria's "Little Athens" began in 1927, when 16 Greek families settled in the area. They were the pioneers of the Greek-American community in Astoria – families who worked hard to gather enough money to build a Greek Orthodox church in the area. They were only able to raise enough funds to build a foundation for the church, at 30th Drive and 31st Street, and to build a church basement.

For 13 years, Astoria's Greek population worshipped in that basement. As the community grew and prospered, so did the church fund and, in 1940 the parishioners built St. Demetrios Church.

The Greek community in Astoria continued to prosper and grow until the population "peaked" in the 1970s. That's when the souvlaki stands began to appear on Astoria street corners, sending the scents from the carts wafting throughout the area – tempting local residents to sample the culinary treats offered by the vendors.



Residential neighborhood in Astoria



[Click here](#) to view a RealPlayer movie story from a recent Astoria immigrant. Maggie tells a story about life in Greece and America.

Copyright © 2001 Queens College

# Bayside, Queens

[Queens Map](#)[Queens Links](#)[About Us](#)[Feedback](#)[Search](#)

**On the left, is a picture of the Bayside Tower at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center.**

Captain Kidd dropped anchor here. The notorious pirate-smuggler utilized a series of secret passages underneath local homes to move his stolen goods. The town's namee originated from a land deed dated 1793 that described a tract of land at the "Bay Side."

Bayside houses Fort Totten, the historic Army Reserve Base now being turned over to the guardianship of the Fire Department. It will become the home of fire training facilities, community organizations and park land.

Developed in 1862 to provide protection against Confederates during the Civil War, teh Fort was officially named in 1901 by President McKinley for Brigadier Gen. Joseph G. Totten, creator of the eastern coast defenses.

Bayside history taken from "The Queens Blue Book," published by the [Queens Tribune](#).



[Click here](#) to view a RealPlayer movie story from a recent Bayside immigrant. Mojgan discusses the differences between living in Iran and Queens.

**Copyright © 2001 Queens College**

# Flushing, Queens

[Queens Map](#)[Queens Links](#)[About Us](#)[Feedback](#)[Search](#)

Flushing Main Street in 1870 with St. George's steeple in the background.



Flushing Main Street in 2001 with St. George's steeple still in the background.

Flushing was the birthplace of religious freedom in America. Quakers who settled on the land balked at Governor Peter Stuyvesant's ban of all but the Dutch Reformed Church in the area. The Quakers signed the Flushing Remonstrance, promising religious tolerance.

The area was named "Vlissing" by the first settlers - a throwback to the Dutch town many of them had called home. The village of "Flushing" was incorporated in 1837. It grew to house the Flushing Town Hall and St. Michael's Church (the oldest Roman Catholic parish in Queens).

Flushing today is the home of the largest Korean American community in New York City - and it was the birthplace of former first lady Nancy Reagan.

Flushing history taken from "The Queens Blue Book," published by the [Queens Tribune](#).



[Click here](#) to hear from Sunita from Guyana about the confusion people have about where she is from.

## About the Project

[Queens Map](#)[Queens Links](#)[About Us](#)[Feedback](#)[Search](#)

The New Immigrants, New Media in Queens Project is an undertaking of Queens College of the City University of New York to document the most recent wave of immigration to the New York City borough of Queens the past decade. The project's goal is to preserve through multimedia the experiences and history of these newest New Yorkers and share their stories with a wide audience on the web.

This project has been initiated by Professors Susan MacMillan and Ed Lenert of the Media Studies Department at Queens College. Content was produced by Paola Ramirez, Despina Teodorescu, and William McCarthy. The website went live in December, 2001.

**Copyright © 2001 Queens College**