



The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

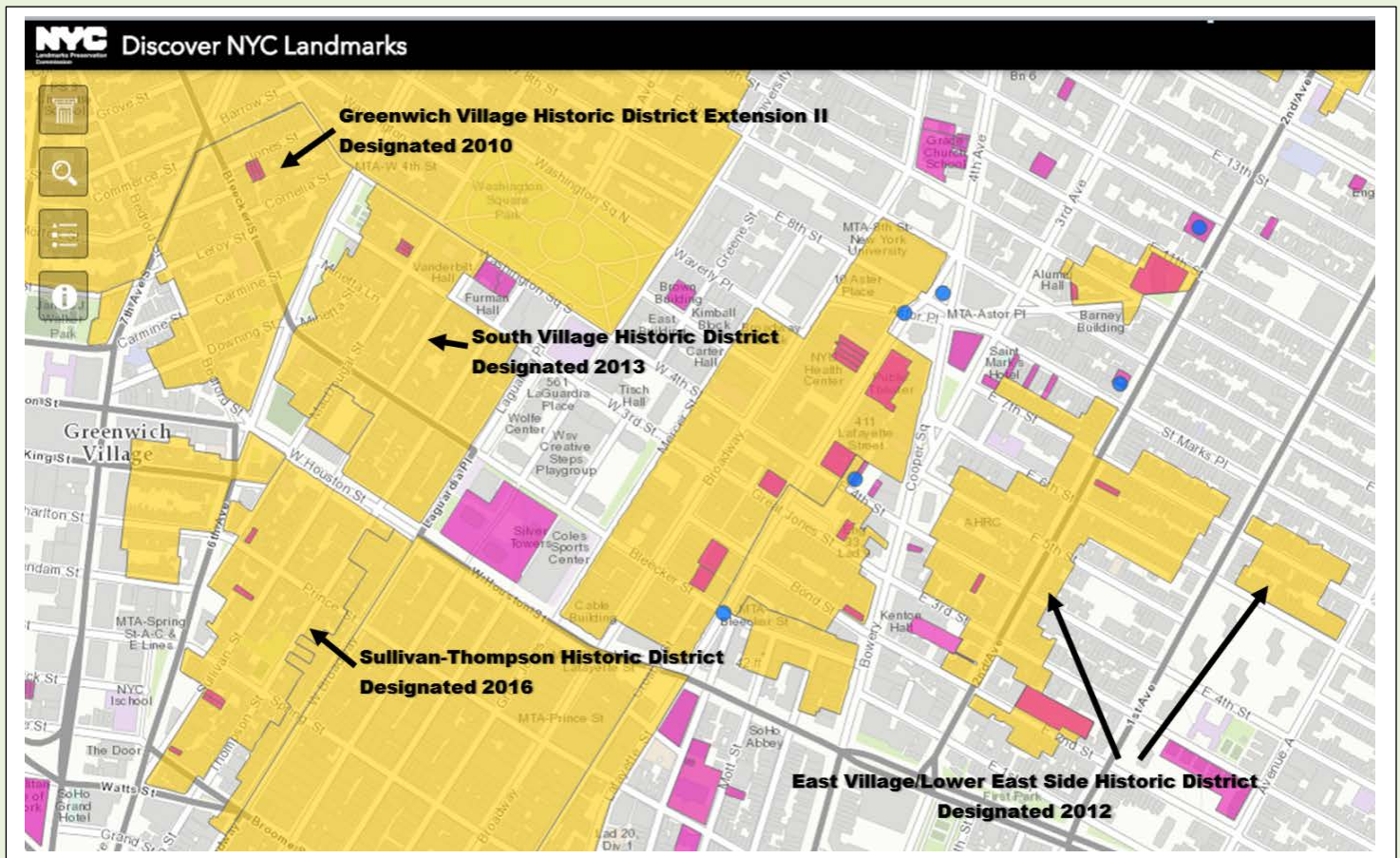
**Expanding Boundaries,
Preserving History,
Celebrating All**

GVSHP has led the fight for:

- *The first historic districts in New York City honoring immigrant history*
- *The first city, state, and federal landmark honoring LGBT history*
- *The first historic district based on countercultural history*
- *Some of the first & only landmarks protecting affordable housing & artists' housing*
- *Documenting & recognizing New York's first and largest African-American community*

Honoring Immigrant History

GVSHHP has proposed and successfully fought for designation of the first and only historic districts in New York City based upon immigrant history.



St. Anthony of Padua Church (1886), the first church built in America for Italian immigrants. Sullivan-Thompson Historic District.

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These immigrant history historic districts include the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II, the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District, the South Village Historic District, and the Sullivan Thompson Historic District.



Colorful old law tenements in the South Village Historic District (1886).



(Above) Our Lady of Pompei Church on Father Demo Square in the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension; (l.) Queen Anne style tenements on E. 7th Street in the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District.



Recognizing LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender) Civil Rights History

GVSHP has consistently fought for recognition of the Stonewall Inn, considered the birthplace of the modern LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) rights movement. In 1999, GVSHP co-nominated the Stonewall Inn for the National Register of Historic Places, making it the first site ever recognized by the National

Register for connection to LGBT history.

In 2015, GVSHP successfully lead the charge to have the Stonewall Inn landmarked by the City of New York,

becoming NYC's first (and still only) landmark based upon LGBT history. In 2016, GVSHP was part of a coalition of groups which succeeded in getting Stonewall designated a National Historic Monument by the federal government, the highest level of recognition offered by the federal government.



Photo © Estate of Fred W. McDarrah



Photo: Barry Munger

GVSHP has fought for recognition of other LGBT history landmarks as well. In 2013, GVSHP got Julius' Bar, the site of a 1966 civil disobedience for LGBT rights and the city's oldest gay bar ruled eligible for the State and National Register of Historic Places, and continues to push the City of New York to recognize it with landmark designation.

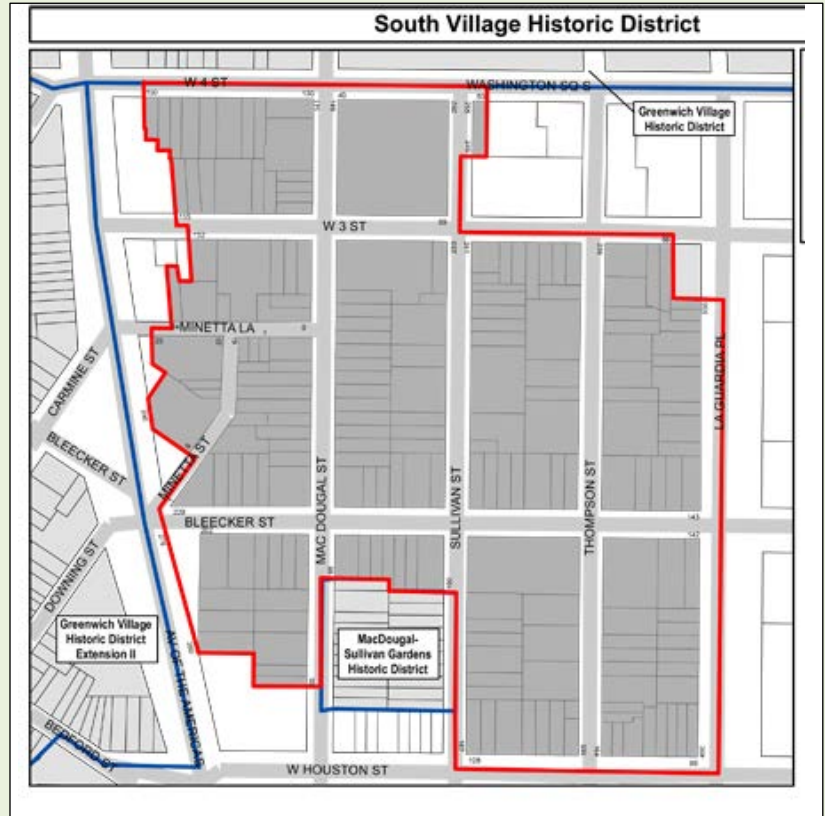


In 2012, GVSHP was able to get the City to expand the boundaries of the proposed East Village/Lower East Side Historic District to include the Pyramid Club at 101 Avenue A, which is seen as the birthplace of a new breed of politically conscious drag performance art and activism which originated there in the 1980's.

Celebrating Countercultural History

GVSHP has consistently fought to secure **recognition and protection for sites connected to countercultural history** – places where artistic, political, social, or intellectual movements outside the mainstream took hold and transformed the culture.

While many such sites are located within the Greenwich Village Historic District, when it was designated in 1969, virtually none of these sites were called out or recognized – because the events had taken place too recently, the movements were still considered too controversial, or because this type of history was not considered worthy of preservation.



GVSHP has worked hard to change that. In 2013, the City designated GVSHP's proposed South Village Historic District – the **first historic district in New York City designated largely to recognize countercultural history** (as well as immigrant history – the two are often intertwined).

The district includes an array of sites connected to the Beats, the folk revival, feminist cafes and LGBT bars.

GVSHP has also successfully sought landmark designation for several other notable countercultural sites, including Webster Hall.



Preserving Affordable Housing Landmarks

GVSHP proposed and spearheaded the drive for landmark designation for two very important affordable housing complexes in our neighborhood, working closely with local residents.



Westbeth. photo: Barry Munger

Westbeth was the first publicly subsidized housing housing for artists in the United States when it opened in 1970, as well as the first large-scale adaptive re-use of an industrial building for residential purposes.

The complex provides low-cost housing and work space for artists. GVSHP got Westbeth listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2010, and landmarked in 2011.

505 LaGuardia Place is part of the Silver Towers complex, built in 1967 by I.M. Pei. As part of an urban renewal agreement, this 170-until tower was required to serve as affordable housing for local residents through the State's Mitchell-Lama

program, which resulted in the construction of housing for hundreds of thousands of city residents between the 1950's and 1970's.

Unfortunately, many of those Mitchell-Lama developments have left that program, and are no longer affordable housing. **505 LaGuardia Place was the first and only Mitchell-Lama development designated a New York City landmark** – a status which its residents enthusiastically pursued along with GVSHP.



505 LaGuardia Place (l.), within the Silver Towers complex.

Documenting African-American History

GVSHP has worked hard to document and highlight the significance of the Village's "Little Africa" community, which in the 19th century was New York City's largest and most important African-American community.

This community lasted until the early 20th century, when increasing waves of European immigrants combined with large-scale demolition of residents' homes and community institutions for subway and road construction led to most of Little Africa's remaining residents to move uptown.



19th century map showing part of "Little Africa," which centered along Minetta Street and Lane, Sullivan, and Thompson Street..



Housing within the former Little Africa.

GVSHP made the African-American history of the South Village a cornerstone of our argument for the area's historic significance and for landmark designation.

When the three phases of our proposed South Village Historic District were designated by the City – the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension II (2010), the South Village Historic District (2013), and the Sullivan

Thompson Historic District (2016) – each included significant documentation of the African-American history and presence in these neighborhoods, and each included the "Little Africa" community as part of the basis for designation.



Little Africa before Lower 6th Avenue cut through the area.



Greenwich Village

SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



www.gvshp.org

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation was founded in 1980 to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo. GVSHP is committed to celebrating and maintaining the dynamic spirit of innovation and inclusion for which these neighborhoods are known.

Our programs include: Educational outreach in the form of public lectures, tours, exhibitions, and publications; a school program that teaches children about Greenwich Village history and architecture; leadership on expanding landmark and zoning protections in our neighborhoods and fighting inappropriate development; preservation projects that promote an understanding of the Village's historic importance, such as the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive, our oral History Project, and our Historic Plaques Program; small business promotion, through our business of the month program; recognition of the community leaders, institutions, businesses, and additions to our streetscapes which add to the special quality of our neighborhoods through our Annual Village Awards; and our Continuing Education program, which teaches real estate professionals about the value of historic preservation.

GVSHP has successfully advocated for the landmark designation of more than 1,250 buildings in our neighborhoods, and has helped secure zoning protections for nearly 100 blocks. Each day GVSHP monitors more than 6,500 building lots in our neighborhood for demolition, alteration, or new construction permits, to notify the public and respond if necessary. And each day GVSHP also monitors the more than 3,000 landmarked properties in our neighborhood for applications for changes which must go through a public review and approval process, to also notify the public and respond as needed.

GVSHP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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