



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

252 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

(212) 475-9585
fax: (212) 475-9582
www.gvshp.org

Executive Director

Andrew Berman

President of the Board

Arthur Levin

Vice-President

Kate Bostock Shefferman

Secretary / Treasurer

Allan G. Sperling

Trustees

Mary Ann Arisman
Penelope Bareau
Tom Birchard
Richard Blodgett
Kyung Choi Bordes
Tom Cooper
Elizabeth Ely
Cassie Glover
Anita Isola
Justine Leguizamo
Leslie Mason
Ruth McCoy
Andrew S. Paul
Cynthia Penney
Robert Rogers
Katherine Schoonover
Trevor Stewart
Marilyn Sobel
Judith Stonehill
Linda Yowell
F. Anthony Zunino III

Advisors

Kent Barwick
Joan K. Davidson
Christopher Forbes
Margaret Halsey Gardiner
Elizabeth Gilmore
Carol Greitzer
Tony Hiss
Martin Hutner
James Stewart Polshek
Martica Sawin Fitch
Anne-Marie Sumner
Calvin Trillin
Jean-Claude van Itallie
George Vellonakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

April 12, 2016

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 17 Barrow Street, Application for Certificate of Appropriateness

Dear Chair Srinivasan: *Meenakshi*

On behalf of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, I would like to express our deep disappointment that at today's public meeting the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) decided not to require the restoration of the arch at 17 Barrow Street, even while maintaining that its loss was regrettable and unfortunate.

The archway was removed without LPC or Department of Buildings approval under flimsy, specious pretenses about safety. The applicant lied about and misrepresented the arch's age and history. By not requiring full restoration of this significant and historic architectural feature, similar illegal actions are being rewarded and encouraged, and a troubling precedent is being set. Further, the idea that damaged or demolished historic fabric cannot be restored is deeply disturbing.

As you know, photographic evidence shows that the arch is at least 75 years old, and may well be considerably older. Over the decades the arch has become a readily-identifiable and much-beloved part of the Village landscape, and speaks to the quirky and charming character of many of the buildings on its streets. The enormous hue and cry which the illegal removal of this feature engendered is tangible evidence of that.

I urge the LPC to re-consider its position and require that the applicant restore the arch, thereby reinstating a historic feature of the Village and sending a message to property owners that illegal demolition will not be tolerated.

Sincerely,
Andrew

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: City Councilmember Corey Johnson
Community Board #2, Manhattan