

The Anais Nin Trust



November 5, 2019

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon Carlina Rivera, City Councilmember, 2nd District
254 East 4th Street
New York, NY 10009

Re: Support for landmark designation of 17 East 13th Street, former home of Anais Nin's Gemor Press

Dear Chair Carroll, Mayor de Blasio, and Councilmember Rivera,

The Anais Nin Trust was created in 1975 to manage the literary estate of Anais Nin. The Trust is dedicated to preserving Anais Nin's legacy through the promotion of Nin scholarship, productions, and publications. We maintain copyrights over text, images, and recordings of or by Anais Nin, as well as Henry Miller's letters to Anais Nin and Ian Hugo's engravings.

I am writing today to express our strong support for the effort by Village Preservation to secure landmark status for 17 East 13th Street, the former home of Anais Nin's Gemor Press, via historic district designation for the area.

Nin was a singularly important figure in 20th century literature and in the development of the female voice in western culture. Her work, which emanated from this building, had a profound effect upon the direction of her career and her success as a writer. Works produced here such as *This Hunger* were key to her recognition as a writer and her development of an audience for her work. The design and printing of these works of literature – which were actually works of art as well – was directly overseen by Nin, and reflected her unique and revolutionary approach to literature. As noted in the submission by Village Preservation, Nin was drawn to this area because it was a center of publishing as well as radical thought, which she combined in her work.

P.O. Box 26053, Los Angeles, CA 90026

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That this building is virtually entirely intact to the time period when Nin's press was located here is extraordinary. This tiny building housed many printers, though none as significant as Nin's, but it speaks to the intimacy of the process involved and the personal involvement of Nin in this aspect of the production of her work. To lose this building almost eighty years after Nin's remarkable time here would be a tragic loss, and preventable.

Given Nin's significance, the role this building played in her work and life, and the connection which her location here bore to the related activities going on around her, I strongly urge you to move ahead with the proposed historic district designation for this and surrounding buildings.

Sincerely,



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