



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

January 25, 2010

Firepatrol, LLC
c/o CRM Management
Attn: Carolyn Rossip Malcolm
205 Hudson Street, Suite 1002
New York, NY 10013

RE: Former Fire Patrol #2 Building
84 West 3rd Street
Manhattan, New York County, NY

Dear Ms. Malcolm:

On September 2009 the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) a request to evaluate the former Fire Patrol #2 Building at 84 West 3rd Street to see if it is eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Based on the information provided by GVSHP, it is the opinion of the SHPO that the former fire house meets the criteria for listing to the Registers. I have attached a copy of our Resource Evaluation for your records.

In order for a building to be listed in the National Register the property owner must not be opposed to the proposed listing. It is the policy of the SHPO to work closely with owners to inform them of the potential benefits of listing. Not only is listing to the Registers a prestigious honor but it brings with it economic incentives. Owners of historic commercial properties listed in the National Register, for example, may qualify for a preservation tax credit. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 allows a 20 percent tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties.

I have enclosed some literature on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and the Investment Tax Credit which you may find helpful. If you are interested in finding out more about these programs please contact me at (518) 237-8643 ext. 3266 or email me at kathy.howe@oprhp.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Howe
Historic Preservation Specialist

enc.

cc: Andrew Berman, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

RESOURCE EVALUATION

DATE: January 25, 2010

PROPERTY: former Fire Patrol #2 Building

ADDRESS: 84 West 3rd Street

STAFF: Kathy Howe

MCD: Manhattan

COUNTY: New York Co.

USN: 06101.017264

- I. Property is individually listed on SR/NR:
name of listing:
- Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:
name of district:
- II. Property meets eligibility criteria.
- Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.
- Pre SRB: Post SRB: SRB date

Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The former Fire Patrol #2 Building is located on West 3rd Street between Sullivan and Thompson Streets within the boundaries of the South Village Historic District which was determined eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2007. While the building already possesses eligibility status as a contributing building within the proposed district, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation requested a review of the building based on its own merits to determine if it would individually meet the NR criteria as an individual listing. Based on a review of the information submitted in September 2009, the former Fire Patrol #2 Building is also individually eligible under Criterion A in the area of government and social history for its contributions to the history of firefighting in New York City and Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of a highly intact early 20th century fire house with Beaux-Arts ornamentation.

Architecture: The firehouse was built in 1906 to the design of architect Franklin Baylies. The four-story-tall, three-bay-wide brick building has a highly articulated base featuring rusticated piers, ornate capitals, and a keystone over the entrance with the face of the Roman god Mercury, the god of speed. The interior retains the original plan and features including a spiral stair, brick flooring in a herringbone pattern, glass wall tile, brass fire poles, and ceiling beams and poles for drying canvases. A stable, built at the same time as the Fire Patrol, still stands at the rear of the property.

*History:*¹ Fire Patrol #2 is historically significant as one of the buildings of the former Fire Patrol of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters which disbanded in 2006. The Fire Patrol traces its beginnings to 1803 when the Mutual Assistance and Bag Corporation was formed by a group of volunteers to protect and preserve the contents of buildings from fire and water damage. It is believed that fire patrols of insurance underwriters are an institution originated by Benjamin Franklin, and most of this country's large cities had these fire patrols. The New York Board of Fire Underwriters officially formed in 1839 as a salvage corps with the mission of fighting fires and preventing losses to insured properties. During fires, the Patrol would spread canvas salvage covers, remove water, operate elevators, and secure utilities.

Fire Patrol #2 was one of ten Fire Patrol Houses in New York City. When the New York Fire Patrol closed in 2006, it was the last of all the insurance supported salvage corps to operate in the United States. No longer in use as a fire house, Fire Patrol #2 was recently sold to a private owner.

¹ Information on the history of the building from Andrew Berman, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, "Historic Resource Inventory Form," August 18, 2009, and "New York Fire Patrol," <http://www.fpsy123.net/>; and "New York Fire Patrol," entry in Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Fire_Patrol, accessed January 25, 2010.

Photos submitted by GVSHP to State Historic Preservation Office





















