

Greenwich Village Society for Historic

Preservation

November 18, 2011

Hon. Robert C. Tierney Chair, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission 1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Re: 370 West 11th Street, Manhattan

252 East 11th Street New York, New York 10005

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

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Dear Chair Tierney,

I write to you regarding the rowhouse at 370 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street in the Far West Village. This building and its neighbor at No. 372 were both built in 1839 and retain a significant amount of original architectural fabric. They are rare surviving examples of Greek Revival houses along the primarily-industrial Greenwich Village waterfront, with historic storefronts dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Both buildings were also among eight individual sites that the LPC promised to consider for designation in 2005. Since then, five of these sites have been designated, though 370 & 372 West 11th Street, and Charles Lane, remain unprotected. Though we have regularly asked the LPC over the last six-and-a-half years to calendar these three remaining sites, no action has been taken since this promise was made.

Now, recent news makes the need for designation of 370 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street even more urgent. Applications have been filed to alter the front façade, add a penthouse and replace the entire rear with a modern façade. These plans would heavily alter the significant historic fabric that has survived intact for over 170 years and makes the building a worthy candidate for landmark designation. We urge the LPC to move forward expeditiously with designation before the building can be destroyed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman Executive Director

CC: Manhattan Community Board 2
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
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Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
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Congressman Jerrold Nadler