



GVSHP
GREENWICH VILLAGE
SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Executive Director

Andrew Berman

President

Elizabeth Ely

Vice-Presidents

Mary Ann Arisman

Arthur Levin

Secretary/Treasurer

Katherine Schoonover

Trustees

Mary Ann Arisman

Penelope Bareau

Meredith Bergmann

Elizabeth Ely

Jo Hamilton

Arthur Levin

Leslie Mason

Robin J. H. Maxwell

Ruth McCoy

Florent Morellet

Peter Mullan

Andrew S. Paul

Jonathan Russo

Katherine Schoonover

Judith Stonehill

Arbie Thalacker

George Vellonakis

Fred Wistow

Linda Yowell

F. Anthony Zunino III

Advisors

F. Anthony Zunino III, Chair

Kent Barwick

Joan K. Davidson

Christopher Forbes

Margaret Halsey Gardiner

Margot Gayle

Elizabeth Gilmore

Carol Greitzer

Tony Hiss

Martin Hutner

Regina M. Kellerman

James Ortenzio

James Stewart Polshek

Elinor Ratner

Henry Hope Reed

Alice B. Sandler

Calvin Trillin

Jean-Claude van Itallie

Anne-Marie Wierner-Summer

Anthony C. Wood

December 2, 2005

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation very much appreciates the tremendous work the Landmarks Preservation Commission has done over the past year to bring historic preservation in the Far West Village one step closer to reality. The hearings it has held and public promises it has made to extend the Greenwich Village Historic District into the Far West Village, to create a Weehawken Street Historic District, and to designate eight individual landmarks in the Far West Village, including the entire Westbeth complex, Charles Lane, the Keller Hotel, 159 Charles Street, 354, 370, and 372 West 11th Street, and 110-112 Horatio Street, are a giant step in the right direction of preserving the disappearing and endangered heritage of this historic neighborhood. We were particularly pleased that the Commission accelerated its process for calendaring and hearing the two proposed historic districts, and that three vulnerable buildings we urged be included at 177 Christopher Street, 139 Charles Street, and 143 Charles/685-7 Washington Streets were added to the proposed historic districts. With the second hearing on the two districts scheduled for December 13, I strongly urge you to designate these districts in their entirety as soon as possible, especially as we are aware that several of these buildings face an immediate danger of demolition and potentially inappropriate new construction, and to calendar and hold hearings upon the other eight promised sites as soon as possible. I look forward to the Commission's fulfillment of this promise and doing what no Commission before it has done in extending significant landmark protections to this neighborhood.

Additionally, I must also again call to the Commission's attention the imminent danger to the historic Superior Inks factory at 70 Bethune/469 West Streets, and urge you to consider designation of this building before it is too late. In all likelihood the opportunity to save this building will be gone not long after the New Year. The factory is an icon of the proud industrial history of the Greenwich Village waterfront, once the center of the working Hudson River waterfront that transformed New York into the world capitol of commerce it is today. The building's smokestacks and handsome utilitarian brick bays have long marked this corner and served as a testament to the production of goods and services which for generations characterized this neighborhood. Similar buildings throughout the area and New York have been successfully adaptively re-used to continue to stand as landmarks in our city and touchstones of our common history. I hope the Commission will not turn a blind eye to the opportunity to preserve one of the last such markers here, either as an individual designation or as part of a district which could include the neighboring Westbeth complex and other industrial buildings in the area.

I am grateful for the Commission's continued interest in the Far West Village, and look forward to continuing to work with you on the preservation of its proud and distinguished history.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: Borough President-elect Scott Stringer
State Senator Tom Duane
City Council Member Christine Quinn
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Greenwich Village Community Task Force

