



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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March 29, 2011

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

Dear Chair Tierney,

I write to call to your attention recently-filed plans to demolish 182 Spring Street/83 Thompson Street, in the proposed South Village Historic District we submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 2006, and replace it with a seven-story structure. In light of these plans for demolition and new development of yet another structure within the proposed district, I again urge the Commission to keep its commitment to consider the area for landmark designation.

On numerous occasions over the last two years, you have stated that the entirety of the proposed South Village Historic District would be considered for designation by the Commission, and that such consideration would closely follow consideration of the first third of the district. Threats to the historic fabric of the South Village continue to mount, even as we await promised action by the Commission.

There is virtually unanimous support for designation of the proposed district among stakeholders, preservation organizations, neighborhood business and property owners and community leaders, and the elected officials and the community board which represent the area. After several years of painstaking research, GVSHP has compiled primary source documentation of the history of every building in the proposed district which we have offered to share with the Commission, making the job of formal consideration of landmark designation considerably easier. It is therefore difficult to imagine any reason not to move forward with consideration of proposed district right away.

The South Village has historically contained an extraordinarily intact record of 19th and early 20th century New York, of our city's earliest wave of development and its transformation as a magnet for large-scale immigration, and of some of the most influential social and cultural movements of the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries. However, in recent years as we have fought for landmark designation, the neighborhood has suffered loss after loss of key historic sites, from the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments to the Circle in the Square Theater, the Sullivan Street Playhouse to the Tunnel Garage, 178 Bleeker Street to 168 Thompson Street, not to mention countless alterations which have compromised existing historic structures.

In light of the Landmarks Preservation Commission's mission to safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage, and in light of the growing list of

threats to the area, I urge you to move ahead with consideration of the remainder of the proposed South Village Historic District right away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Berman". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation League of NY State
Municipal Art Society
NY Landmarks Conservancy
Historic Districts Council
Central Village Block Association
SoHo Alliance
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association
Charlton Street Block Association
VanDam Street Block Association
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
State Senator Thomas K. Duane
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
City Councilmember Margaret Chin
Sean Sweeney, Community Board #2, Manhattan, Landmarks Committee