



Greenwich  
Village  
Society for  
Historic  
Preservation

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July 22, 2014

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Outstanding issues and request for meeting**

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

I write to bring to your attention several issues the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has raised with your predecessor at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and to request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these and other issues. They are:

- **Consideration of the final remaining third of the proposed South Village Historic District.** GVSHP first approached the Commission about landmark designation of the South Village in 2002, and submitted a formal proposal with boundaries, historic information on every building in the proposed district, and a rationale and narrative for the district by renowned architectural historian Andrew Dolkart in 2006 (he report is at [www.gvshp.org/svdolkart](http://www.gvshp.org/svdolkart)). The LPC considered the first third of that proposed district in 2010, and the second third in 2013. However, under your predecessor, the agency declined to hear or consider the remaining third, located south of Houston Street, claiming that there were too many “modern intrusions.” We hope you will take another look at this historically rich area, which reflects our city and our country’s immigration history and the development of working-class housing, and consider it for designation.
- **Recognizing and protecting LGBT landmarks.** Please see the attached letter to your predecessor describing the need to recognize and protect sites of significance to the LGBT civil rights movement, and offering several approaches for doing so. No action has been taken on any of these, as we were told that the Commission was engaging in an ongoing a broader survey of sites of cultural significance throughout the city. I hope you will move forward with consideration of these important and previously overlooked sites.
- **Improving access to information from the LPC.** Please see the attached letter outlining several suggestions of ways in which the LPC could make information more readily available to the public, and make participation in its public

hearings easier for the public. We did not receive a direct response to any of these suggestions, and hope you will consider them.

- **Voting on the proposed landmark designation of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 334 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street.** First calendared in 1966, this building has been in “landmarks limbo” for almost fifty years. Last year the structure was advertised for sale – a fact which we immediately brought to the LPC’s attention along with a request for a public hearing to resolve the question of this historically significant site’s landmark status. A hearing was held earlier this year but no vote taken. We continue to urge that the building be landmarked, and hope that a vote can be scheduled soon (see attached letter).
- **Negative impact of delays in landmark designations.** Earlier this month I sent you a report GVSHPC commissioned showing how, under the prior administration, the delays in landmark designation along with advance notice given to property owners well in advance of the legally-required notification that the LPC is considering calendaring their property for designation has led to the compromise or destruction of multiple historic sites. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further with you and how this might be addressed.

I appreciate your attention to these matters and look forward to hearing back from you about arranging a mutually convenient time when we might meet to discuss these.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman  
Executive Director