



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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www.nyc.gov/landmarks



Robert B. Tierney
Chair

January 28, 2008

Mr. Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10003

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response your letter concerning the proposed South Village Historic District. I am appreciative of both the amount of research that has been done and for the outreach for support that the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has undertaken for this effort. As the South Village Historic District proposal notes, the study area for this district is very large. At this time, therefore, the Landmarks Preservation Commission plans to survey the area west of Sixth Avenue as a potential historic district, or possible extension to the existing Greenwich Village Historic District, during the spring and summer of 2008.

As always, thank you for your interest in historic preservation and in the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Tierney". The signature is stylized and includes a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert B. Tierney



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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February 11, 2008

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

Re: Proposed South Village Historic District

Dear Chair Tierney: *Bob*

Thank you very much for your letter of January 28th setting forth the Landmarks Preservation Commission's intention to survey the area west of Sixth Avenue in the proposed South Village Historic District this spring and summer for possible historic district designation. On behalf of the entire Board and membership of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, I wish to extend our gratitude to you and the Commission for your willingness to move forward in your consideration of this proposal. Given the limits of the Commission's resources and the demands it receives citywide, this action is especially encouraging.

While I understand that there are many steps, including those you have outlined, that the Commission must take before it can designate an area an historic district, I also urge you to consider the immediate and ongoing danger this entire neighborhood faces, west of 6th Avenue as well as east. It would be a shame if, while the Commission was doing this important work, we lost any more important pieces of the South Village's heritage and architecture, either in the area to be surveyed west of 6th Avenue or in the remaining two-thirds of the proposed district. This would be especially unfortunate if such loss compromised the integrity of the neighborhood's historic character and diminished the Commission's ability to take further action to extend historic district protections.

The threat of loss of important historic features the neighborhood faces seems to grow with each passing day. As you know, several 19th century houses in the proposed South Village Historic District were recently lost on the east side of Sixth Avenue near Van Dam Street, while key buildings such as the former stage coach house at 233-37 Bleecker Street, the Former Fire Patrol House #2 at 84 West 3rd Street, and the 1861 rowhouse at 178 Bleecker Street are currently threatened.

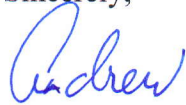
To help prevent this from happening, GVSHP will of course continue to closely monitor this area, report any additional threats as soon as we are aware of them, and urge the Commission to act. However, as we often become aware of such threats only after it is too late, the only way to ensure the preservation of the historic integrity of the South Village is for the Commission to consider all parts of the neighborhood for historic district designation as soon as is feasible.

Toward that end, the South Village is a historic neighborhood with 19th and early 20th century architecture that tells a unique and compelling story of immigrant history and cultural innovation. Because its history is so distinctive, I would urge that survey work be done with an eye towards considering the area as a new and separate South Village Historic District, to reflect this neighborhood's unique narrative, and to honor and highlight the particular people, cultures, and institutions that defined and built it.

GVSHP will gladly do anything in its power to help the Commission with its work regarding the South Village. As you know, the Society has performed primary research upon every one of the buildings in the proposed district, and therefore has photographs as well as copies of original source materials substantiating the date of construction, architect, original owner, the date and nature of alterations, and other historically significant information about nearly every building in the proposed district. I would be happy to share any or all of our research with the Commission to help facilitate the staff's review of this area.

It is heartening to know that the Commission remains so open to reviewing the unprotected historic resources in our neighborhoods, and continues to take actions to extend protections to them. Thank you again for all of the hard work done by you and the Commission. I very much look forward to working with you further on the proposed South Village Historic District, and on protecting all the wonderful historic resources found in the South Village and throughout our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director

Cc: City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
State Senator Tom Duane
State Senator Martin Connor
State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
City Councilmember Alan Gerson
Historic South Village Advisory Board



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THOMAS DUANE
SENATOR, 29TH DISTRICT

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February 27, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Tierney:

I would like to thank the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for agreeing to survey the area west of Sixth Avenue in the proposed South Village Historic District. I greatly appreciate LPC taking this first step and hope that the proposal for the entire district, as detailed in the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's (GVSHP) report, "The South Village: A Proposal for Historic District Designation," can be advanced as soon as possible.

The cohesive and unique urban fabric in the South Village, formed by the collection of tenements, row houses, industrial lofts, and churches both east and west of Sixth Avenue, is clearly under threat. Indeed, several 19th century houses on the east side of Sixth Avenue near Van Dam Street were recently destroyed. Other notable buildings in the proposed district face current threats, such as the former stage coach house at 233-37 Bleecker Street, the Former Fire Patrol House #2 at 84 West 3rd Street, and the 1861 row house at 178 Bleecker Street. The South Village is one of the few places in our city where the architectural landscape, which played host to a succession of quintessential New York constituencies, remains virtually unaltered. Without the protection that historic district designation would provide, however, this distinct neighborhood is unlikely to be preserved much longer.

GVSHP worked on its proposal for years, through research and proactive consultation with community groups, and continues to be dedicated to securing this designation as a separate and distinct historic district. I appreciate the demands placed on LPC and the



limits of its resources; however, I would like to join GVSHP in expressing the urgency of this matter and hope for a swift and comprehensive designation process.

Thank you again for taking this encouraging step forward with this proposal. I appreciate LPC's dedication to preserving our City's heritage and look forward to continuing to work with you towards that end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Duane". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas K. Duane
New York State Senate
29th District

cc: Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation