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July 11, 2012

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

Re: 186 Spring Street, South Village

Dear Chairman Tierney,


On behalf of the Preservation League of New York State, I write to bring your attention to the proposed demolition at 186 Spring Street in the South Village. 186 Spring Street is a rare surviving Federal style rowhouse, eligible for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places as part of the proposed South Village Historic District. While we appreciate the designation of a third of the South Village in 2010, two-thirds of this historic neighborhood remain unprotected by local landmark designation. The Preservation League listed the South Village on our statewide *Seven to Save* this year because of the neighborhood's statewide importance, as well as the potential threats to neighborhood character through demolitions like the one proposed at 186 Spring Street.

In 2003, the Preservation League of New York State funded a cultural resources survey of the South Village, undertaken by Andrew Dolkart for the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. In 2007, we submitted a letter to your office requesting evaluation of the proposed South Village Historic District. In 2008, we wrote again to encourage designation of the South Village, in the face of the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments demolition and alterations.

We understand that the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission has an enormous workload and a limited budget, which is why we work with organizations help fund studies, like Andrew Dolkart's of the South Village, to assist the Landmarks Preservation Commission with background research. We believe Andrew Dolkart's cultural resources survey makes a strong case for a complete South Village Historic District. We hope to celebrate the Landmarks Preservation Commission's designation of the entire South Village Historic District in the near future.

The Preservation League appreciates the hard work of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you once again for your consideration of this important historic district. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Jay A. DiLorenzo  
President

cc: Andrew Berman, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation