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September 23, 2010

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

Re: 326-28 E. 4th Street

Dear Chairman Tierney:

I write to add my voice to the many that have recommended the designation of two buildings in my district, which I believe warrant landmark designation. 326 and 328 E. 4th Street are two Greek Revival homes built in the mid-19th century. They are the original buildings built on these lots, and they retain to an extraordinary degree the character and detail of the original structures constructed 170 years ago. I believe that they meet the criteria for designation both because of their architectural and cultural merit.

As you know, although they have been under-maintained during the last years, they have not been altered significantly. Both have significant detail remaining, including cornices, lintels, stoop ironwork, etc. They provide excellent examples of the private homes that served the merchant class who lived and worked in this burgeoning part of the city in the mid-19th century.

I also believe that these buildings have significant cultural merit that reflects the incredibly far reaching changes this community has been privy to during the buildings' long existence. While first reflecting the shipbuilding heritage of the early Lower East Side, 328 E. 4th became a Hungarian synagogue in the 1920s, and more recently the home of the Uranaian Phalanstery, which calls itself "an anarchist utopian commune for practitioners of art and cosmology".

It would be a tragedy to lose these precious buildings, and it appears that they are under peril of demolition. I ask you to move as quickly as possible to landmark them.

Thank you for consideration in this matter and many other requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosie Mendez".

Rosie Mendez
Council woman