



**Greenwich Village
Society for Historic Preservation**

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August 6, 2010

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

**Re: Urgent Request for Evaluation for 328 and 326 East 4th Street,
Manhattan**

Dear Chair Tierney:

We write to urgently request that the Landmarks Preservation Commission expeditiously evaluate for consideration for individual landmark status 328 and 326 East 4th Street, Manhattan, two incredibly intact Greek Revival rowhouses located between Avenues C and D. Research by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (attached) indicates these houses were built between 1839 and 1841, and, remarkably, in their 170-year history have remained almost completely unaltered on their exteriors.

Now, however, both face the imminent possibility of substantial compromise or worse. Applications filed yesterday with the Department of Buildings and discovered by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation seek to "CONVERT EXISTING 4 STORY CONVERTED DWELLING INTO A HEREAFTER ERECTED CLASS 'A' FIRE PROOF MULTIPLE DWELLING AND ADD 2 STORIES TO EXISTING BUILDING."

As you know, these are some of the oldest intact structures anywhere in the East Village. The level of architectural integrity is incredible, with details including wooden cornices, original stoop ironwork, lintels, and doorway frieze and entablature still intact. These structures date from and reflect the time when the East River was New York's busiest working waterfront, and successful merchants built some of New York's finest homes adjacent to it in these easternmost blocks of what is now the East Village. As you also know, after more than a century and a half of tumultuous change in this neighborhood, very few of these houses survive to this day. Of the few that do, this level of preserved architectural integrity is extremely rare.

Because these applications (attached) have just been filed, there is time for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to act. We hope that you will move swiftly to ensure that these two incredible and noteworthy pieces of New York and the East Village's history are preserved.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation



Kurt Cavanaugh
Managing Director
East Village Community Coalition

Cc: Councilmember Rosie Mendez
Mary Beth Betts, Director of Research, LPC
Municipal Art Society
NY Landmarks Conservancy
Historic Districts Council