



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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March 6, 2017

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 55 Gansevoort Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Srinivasan: *Meenakshi*

We have reviewed the revised plans for 55 Gansevoort Street. While the applicant has modified the design by reducing the height of the windscreen and rooftop addition, we nevertheless feel that it is still not appropriate.

55 Gansevoort Street is a uniquely important building, both in terms of its visually prominent location and its architectural and historic significance. Built in 1887, it is located near Gansevoort plaza making any rooftop addition unusually visible (it should be noted that this feature of the district – the large, open intersections where different street grids converge, which make many of these small-scale buildings uncommonly visually prominent – is highlighted conspicuously in the district’s designation report). The building contributes to the visual cohesion of the district not only through its façade elements but also through its five story height, typical of the loft buildings in the district built during this time.

As one of the commissioners commented during the public hearing, this rooftop addition is one that is trying to be subordinate and deferential to the main building. However, in the previous proposal, the addition was too prominent to carry out that intent. Merely lowering the addition three feet, as currently proposed, does not resolve this problem and the rooftop addition in the revised proposal is still too large and prominent.

Another commissioner during the hearing pointed out that glass panels as screens do not disappear and in fact are not at all transparent. You, in fact, called into question the appropriateness of the use of this material at this location. We agree and feel that any visibility of a glass windscreen is not acceptable.

Therefore, we ask that you deny the current proposal for 55 Gansevoort Street and ask for modifications which further reduce the visibility of any rooftop additions and entirely eliminate the wind screens from view.

Sincerely,
Andrew
Andrew Berman
Executive Director.