



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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September 19, 2008

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

Re: 178 Bleecker Street, in the proposed South Village Historic District

Dear Chair Tierney:

Bob

I write to bring to your attention the imminent threat of demolition of 178 Bleecker Street, and its replacement with a new, out-of-scale 8-story building.

178 Bleecker Street is one of a row of houses built in 1861 on the south side of Bleecker Street between MacDougal and Sullivan Streets in the heart of the South Village, an area which we hope will become a historic district. This grand row was altered in 1923 to add studio windows to most of the houses, reflecting the historically significant pattern of alteration of rowhouses in the Village in the interwar years to accommodate an influx of artists. This distinctive grouping of buildings forms a backbone of the historic South Village.

Now, however, that may be destroyed. A new owner has applied for demolition permits for the building, which have not yet been granted. In the past, the owner has applied for permits to construct a new 8-story building on the site, which would be grossly out of context for this street and this row.

As always, I call this to your attention with the request that the Landmarks Preservation Commission take action on the proposed South Village Historic District in time to prevent such destruction from taking place. We recognize and appreciate that the Commission has limited resources and is surveying the western 1/3 of the proposed historic district for potential designation. However, it would be a great shame to see further damage done to this wonderful historic area in the interim, which has already suffered considerable losses of its historic resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew

Andrew Berman
Executive Director