GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS OF SUMMER 2009

HISTORIC DISTRICTS
- Proposed by GVSHP, designation approved
- Proposed by GVSHP, designation under consideration
- Supported by GVSHP, designation approved

DOWNZONINGS
- Proposed by GVSHP, downzoned by City
- Proposed by GVSHP, under consideration by City
- Supported by GVSHP, downzoned by City

INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS
- Proposed by GVSHP, landmarked by City
- Supported by GVSHP, landmarked by City

OTHER SITES
- Sites impacted by GVSHP advocacy

See reverse for details
- HISTORIC DISTRICTS -

Gansevoort Market Historic District / Gansevoort Market State and National Register Historic District: GVSPH proposed the Gansevoort Market Historic District in 2001. The City designated the somewhat smaller Gansevoort Market District in 2003, while the Gansevoort Market State and National Register Historic District, designated in 2007, includes the entire area proposed by GVSPH. This was the first expansion of historic district protections on the West Village since the designation of the Greenwich Village Historic District in 1969.

Greenwich Village Historic District Extension / Weehawken Street Historic District: The Greenwich Village Historic District Extension and the Weehawken Street Historic District were designated in 2006 in response to GVSPH’s proposal for landmarking the Far West Village. This was the first-ever expansion of the Greenwich Village Historic District, and only the second new historic district in Greenwich Village since 1969.

NoHo Historic District / NoHo East Historic District / NoHo Historic District Extension: GVSPH’s was a staunch advocate of extending landmark protections to NoHo, after the NoHo Historic District was designated in 1999, GVSPH continued to push for designation of the remainder of the neighborhood, which took place in 2003 (NoHo East Historic District) and 2008 (NoHo Historic District Extension).

South Village Historic District: GVSPH proposed the South Village Historic District in 2006. In May 2009, the City proposed the first landmark designations for part of the area – proposed expansions of the adjacent Greenwich Village and SoHo Historic Districts. The 235-building, 12-block expansion of the Greenwich Village Historic District would be the largest expansion of landmark protections in Greenwich Village since 1969. The City has indicated they will consider the remainder of the proposed South Village Historic District after these first two pieces are designated.

Stonewall State and National Register Historic District: The Stonewall State and National Register Historic District was proposed by GVSPH, and was listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places in 1999 (the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots), and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2000. This was the first, and to this day only, site in the United States to receive its significance to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History.

- INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS -

4 St. Marks Place: No. 4 St. Marks Place, built in 1832, was among 13 federal houses GVSPH and the New York Landmarks Conservation proposed for landmark designation in 2003. It was designated in 2004.

67 Greenwich Street: No. 67 Greenwich Street, built in 1811, was among 13 federal houses GVSPH and the New York Landmarks Conservancy proposed for landmark designation in 2003. It was designated in 2005.

127, 129, and 131 MacDougal Street: Nos. 127, 129, and 131 MacDougal Street, built in 1829, were among 13 federal houses GVSPH and the New York Landmarks Conservancy proposed for landmark designation in 2003. They were designated in 2004.

159 Charles Street: In 2007, the City landmarked this 1838 house. It was one of eight sites in the Far West Village the City committed to landmark in 2005 in response to GVSPH’s proposed Far West Village Historic District, which also resulted in the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension and the Weehawken Street Historic District.

354 West 13th Street: In 2007, the City landmarked this 1841 house. It was one of eight sites in the Far West Village the City committed to landmark in 2005 in response to GVSPH’s proposed Far West Village Historic District, which also resulted in the Greenwich Village Historic District Extension and the Weehawken Street Historic District.

- DOWNZONINGS -

3rd to 4th Avenue Corridor: In 2006, when the city began consideration of a rezoning of the East Village, GVSPH pushed hard to expand the rezoning to include the 3rd and 4th Avenue corridors, where current zoning encourages hotel and dormitory development of up to 20 stories or more. The local Community Board and elected officials also joined in this call, while the area was not included in the East Village rezoning adopted by the City, the proposal to rezone the area is now being reviewed separately by the City.

East Village: In 2008 the City adopted a massive 111-block rezoning of the East Village proposed by a coalition of community groups including GVSPH, which downzoned much of the neighborhood, limiting the size and height of allowable new development. This was the largest rezoning in Manhattan in several years.

Far West Village: In 2005, in response to a campaign led by GVSPH, the city downzoned much of the Far West Village, limiting the size and height of allowable new development there. This was the first downzoning in Manhattan in years.

- OTHER SITES -

43 MacDougal Street: GVSPH has gotten the City to key over $100,000 in fines and damages for a lawsuit against the owner of 43 MacDougal Street, a landmarked 1846 house which has been neglected for over 20 years and has deteriorated to the point of endangering its safety and that of its neighbors.

115-125 7th Avenue South: In 2009, GVSPH successfully opposed approvals needed for a proposed addition to 115-125 7th Avenue South that would have doubled the building’s height.

128 East 13th Street: In 2006, GVSPH was able to stop demolition plans for 128 East 13th St., the last surviving horse auction marit building in New York and the former studio of artist Frank Stella. The City is currently considering GVSPH’s proposal to landmark the building.

145 Perry Street: In 2008 and 2009, GVSPH successfully called for changes in the design and a reduction in the size of a proposed new development at 145 Perry Street.


- CONGREGATION MEZZRICH SYNAGOGUE -

In 2008, GVSPH and a coalition of East Village and Jewish groups were able to derail plans to demolish the Congregation Mezrrich Synagogue, the East Village’s last operating “temen synagogue.”

Jefferson Market Garden and Library: A grant from the Vincent Astor Foundation allowed GVSPH and the Village Committee for the Jefferson Market Area to install a new wrought iron and steel fence around the Jefferson Market Garden and back lot of the library in 1998, replacing a deteriorating chain link fence which surrounded the garden for more than two decades. Its design was based upon the original 19th century fence which surrounded the site.

Jefferson Market Library: In 2007, after years of deterioration to the façade of the Jefferson Market Library, GVSPH and other community groups successfully advocated for funding which had been secured for interior renovations to be transferred to allow for the urgently-needed renovation of the exterior of the building.

New School: In 2009 the New School announced that they were dropping plans to build a new 350,000 sq ft glass building at 65 Fifth Avenue; a plan staunchly opposed by GVSPH.

NYC Dormitories: After a campaign led by GVSPH to get New York University to locate new facilities outside of the Greenwich Village/NoHo/East Village area, in 2008 the University announced plans to locate new dormitories in Downtown Brooklyn and East Midtown.

Pier 40: In 2008, GVSPH and a broad coalition of community groups successfully blocked approvals for a massive entertainment complex on Pier 40 branded “Vegas-on-the-Hudson.”

Provincetown Playhouse: In 2008, GVSPH led the effort to get NYU to change plans to demolish the Provincetown Playhouse. While the University moved forward on demolishing the historic building which housed the theater, they agreed to preserve the theater space itself and build around it.

Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection: In 2008, GVSPH and East Village community groups were able to prevent plans to build an eight-story condo tower on top of the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection at 59 E. 2nd Street. The City is currently considering GVSPH’s proposal to landmark the site.

St. Vincent’s Hospital: GVSPH led the effort to call for substantial changes to the St. Vincent’s/Eudaim plan to demolish nine buildings in the Greenwich Village Historic District and replace them with two enormous towers and several smaller buildings. The Landmarks Preservation Commission required several (but not all) of the changes GVSPH called for, including preserving four of the campus’ historic buildings and reducing the size of the largest buildings. The plan is still being reviewed and has not yet received final approval.