



Greenwich  
Village  
Society for  
Historic  
Preservation

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September 7, 2010

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

Re: Historic District Designation of the South Village

Dear Chair Tierney:

We were thrilled earlier this year when the first phase of the proposed South Village Historic District was landmarked. As you know, this is one of the most historically, architecturally, and culturally rich areas of New York City. It is an area for which advocates have sought landmark status since the 1960's, and which many of us have been working since 2002 on a concerted effort to see landmarked under the leadership of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

However, we were also equally concerned about the remaining two-thirds of the proposed South Village Historic District which the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) has thus far not taken any action on, and about the many sites throughout the South Village which have been compromised or lost prior to movement by the LPC. As you know, numerous significant sites, including the Circle in the Square Theater, Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments, Sullivan Street Playhouse, the Tunnel Garage, and 178 Bleecker Street have all been lost in recent years, and countless houses, stables, tenements, and storefronts have been unsympathetically altered. In spite of the economic downturn the pace of destruction has not abated, and this neighborhood needs the intervention of the LPC as soon as possible.

When the LPC held its first hearing on the first phase of the proposed South Village Historic District in October of 2009, you indicated that action on the remainder of the South Village would soon follow. Almost a year later, we are anxiously awaiting movement by the Commission on this remaining section of the South Village. It would be a shame, not only for our neighborhood but for all of New York, if more of the South Village were lost awaiting the long-overdue and essential protections this historic area needs and deserves.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director  
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Simeon Bankoff

Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director  
Historic Districts Council

Harriet McGurk

Harriet McGurk  
Central Village Block Association

Silvia Beam

Silvia Beam, President  
VanDam Street Block Association

Richard Blodgett

Richard Blodgett, President  
Charlton Street Block Association

Karen Cooper

Karen Cooper, Director  
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Anita Isola, Member  
Historic South Village Advisory Board

Anthony Allicino

Anthony Allicino  
25 Leroy Street Co-op

Kim Whitener

Kim Whitener, President  
71 Sullivan Street Owners Corp.

Suze Rotolo

Suze Rotolo, Artist and Author of  
*A Freewheelin' Time: A Memoir of Greenwich Village in the Sixties*

Jerome Krase

Jerome Krase, Ph.D.  
Emeritus and Murray Koppelman Professor, Brooklyn College (CUNY)

Connie Masullo

Connie Masullo, American Committee of Italian Migration  
First Vice-President, American Legion Auxiliary Post

Albert Bennett

Albert Bennett, Community Liaison  
Morton Street Block Association

Zack Winestine

Zack Winestine, Co-Chair  
Greenwich Village Community Task Force

Fr. Joseph F. Lorenzo

Fr. Joseph F. Lorenzo, O.F.M.  
Pastor, Shrine Church of St. Anthony

Ian Dutton

Ian Dutton  
Community Board 2, Manhattan

Mary Elizabeth Brown

Mary Elizabeth Brown, Ph.D., Author,  
*From Italian Villages to Greenwich Village*, and *The Italians of the South Village*

Susan Tunick

Susan Tunick,  
Friends of Terra Cotta

Judith Callet

Judith Callet, Resident Chair  
Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association

Terri Cook

Terri Cook  
Author of *Sacred Havens: A Guide To Manhattan's Spiritual Places*

*Lois Rakoff*

Lois Rakoff, Member  
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Sean Sweeney, Director  
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Mary Ann Arisman, Co-Chair  
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*Robert E. Riccobono*

Robert E. Riccobono, Vice-President  
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*Leslie Mason*

Leslie Mason, Owner  
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Gary Tomei, President  
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*Lucy Cecere*

Lucy Cecere, Co-Founder  
Caring Community