



Greenwich
Village
Society for
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Preservation

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TESTIMONY OF THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
REGARDING PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF
Isaac T. Hopper Home
110 East 2nd Street, Manhattan
January 13, 2009

Thank you, Commissioners, for the opportunity to testify before you today. The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation strongly supports the proposed designation of the Isaac T. Hopper Home, located at 110 East 2nd Street, as an individual landmark.

The Isaac T. Hopper Home has a rich and important history, for reasons both architectural and cultural. It is a rare survivor from a crucial time in the East Village's development, before the neighborhood became famous for its tenements and concentrated immigrant population. In 1838, when 110 Second Avenue is believed to have been constructed, this part of Manhattan housed some of the wealthiest families in Manhattan. Though some striking examples of elite homes from the early 19th Century have been preserved in the nearby St. Mark's Historic District, 110 Second Avenue is a rare, near-perfectly intact example of Greek Revival rowhouse architecture in the East Village. Having undergone only a few minor alterations during its 180-year lifespan, the house has maintained its dental molding, grand stoop and doorway flanked by brownstone Ionic columns, and classic stretcher bond brickwork.

110 Second Avenue is the only survivor of four houses originally built for the Mead family. Ralph Mead, who lived in the house from 1845-1859, was the proprietor of a successful wholesale grocery business. When it was purchased by the Women's Prison Association in 1874, and renamed the Isaac T. Hopper Home after the Association's founder, the house gained a new significance for its association with a highly-influential progressive prison reformer and Quaker abolitionist. Hopper's daughter Abigail, who would later also become famous for her role in the abolitionist movement, was the Association's first president.

We thank and applaud the Commission for seeking to preserve yet another highly significant layer of East Village history.

Thank you.