



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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**Testimony of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Regarding the designation of
The NoHo Historic District Extension
March 18, 2008**

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation strongly supports the designation of the NoHo Historic District Extension. The extension takes in approximately 60 historically and architecturally significant buildings that were excluded from the two earlier NoHo historic districts. With this designation, the area's the early- to mid-nineteenth century residences and late-nineteenth century store-and-loft buildings, as well as the neighborhood's incredibly important cobblestone streets, that have for years remained unprotected will finally have the landmark safeguards they deserve.

The proposed district includes several outstanding buildings, including a Federal-style rowhouse at 26 Bond Street and a Greek Revival style rowhouse at 52 Bond Street, remnants of a time when this area was a premier residential neighborhood. The Italianate stables at 31-33 Great Jones Street, which date to 1871, stand out not only for their design but also because they differ in size and shape from the tall store-and-loft buildings that dominate the neighborhood. NoHo is probably best-known for its loft buildings, and the proposed extension contains several noteworthy examples, including 47 Great Jones Street, an imposing Renaissance Revival loft building, and 21 Bond Street, an 1890s loft with a façade articulated in Roman brick, brownstone, and terra cotta.

The extension's rowhouses, tenements, stables, and lofts help complete the preservation of the entire NoHo neighborhood. Like the other two NoHo districts, the physical fabric of the extension reflects the history of the neighborhood from an elegant residential area to a manufacturing district and later to a magnet for some of the late-twentieth century's best known American artists, including Robert Mapplethorpe, Basquiat, and Chuck Close. NoHo's architecture and sense of place is incredibly intact, and the entire neighborhood is worth of designation.

GVHSP urges the Commission to move forward with this designation as quickly as possible. In addition, we urge you to include within the designation the currently excluded sites along Bowery, East 4th Street, and Great Jones Street. The neighborhood is currently under great development pressure. Its historic character is being threatened by the demolition of buildings and the construction new buildings inappropriate in size, scale, and style. The time has come for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to complete the designation of the NoHo Historic District, and I urge you to designate the extension with boundaries that are expanded without delay.

Thank you for your attention.