



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
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Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

December 17th, 2012

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10003

Re: Julius' Bar – 159 West 10th Street (188 Waverly Place)
Greenwich Village Historic District

Mr. Berman:

Our office has received your submission for a request for individual National Register of Historic Places eligibility for Julius' Bar in Manhattan. I want to thank you for your thoroughly prepared historic overview of the site and inform you that, based on the information provided, the New York State Historic Presentation Office has determined that Julius' Bar is individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The building meets the criteria for listing in the area of social history for its association with the LGBT civil rights movement.

In 1966 members of the Mattachine Society, an early gay and lesbian civil rights organization formed in 1950, staged a 'Sip-In' at several NYC bars in an attempt to challenge the New York State Liquor Authority's (SLA) ban of serving drinks to homosexuals. While at Julius', the peacefully assembled protestors were denied service. The *New York Times* published a photograph and article documenting the previous day's event. Identifying the group as 'sexual deviants,' the article and its accompanying photo proved to be an effective tool for the Society. A complaint to NYC's Commission on Human Rights led to a 1967 New York State court ruling that declared that the SLA needed 'substantial evidence' of indecent behavior to close an establishment for serving homosexual patrons.

An important factor in evaluating Julius' Bar for the National Register was the

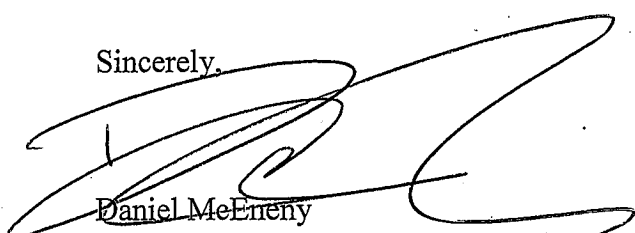
evaluation of the building's interior, which remains remarkably intact from the 1966 period of significance. The building was designated by the City of New York as a contributing resource in the Greenwich Village Historic District in 1969 and that district was additionally listed on the National Register in 1979. While Julius' enjoys protection under federal, state and city preservation laws, this individual eligibility is dependent on the certain features of the building's interior, particularly the bar itself, which is such an important aspect to this milestone in LGBT history and civil rights.

During the early years of the preservation movement, historic districts were largely evaluated based on their intact architecture and rarely for their social significance, especially those historic contexts associated with the recent past. To date, there are only two sites on the National Register directly associated with LGBT history: NYC's Stonewall, designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2000, and the recently listed Dr. Franklin E Kameny Residence in Washington D.C., which has a shared history with Julius' Bar for its association with the Mattachine Society.

Eligibility and/or listing on the National Register offers a measure of protection under federal and New York State historic preservation laws. It does not prohibit a property owner from making changes to a property with private funding. The Division for Historic Preservation provides consultation when public money or permitting is associated with a historic site. The purposes of the register program are to document sites of cultural significance in communities and to qualify properties for potential grant programming and tax credit incentives for rehabilitation.

If there are any questions about this determination of National Register of Historic Places eligibility, please contact the Division staff to discuss further.
518.237.8643 x3257 daniel.mceneny@parks.ny.gov

Sincerely,



Daniel McEneny
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
New York City and Long Island

cc: Astoria Federal Savings & Loan Association
inc: Investment Tax Credit Programs brochure